

DECEMBER 1987

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

MAGAZINE



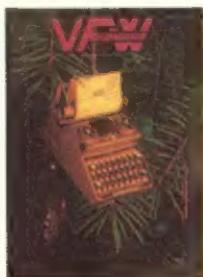
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Few GIs had access to typewriters outside of some rear echelon headquarters. Even so, this typewriter ornament on the Christmas tree and its simulated V-Mail sheet recall for many WWII veterans, at least, Christmas overseas and the thoughts they jotted down on that day to their loved ones. V-Mail, with its three dots and one dash, Morse Code for the letter "V", was fast and efficient. The letters were photographed on a reel of 16mm motion picture film and flown to the States for processing and quick delivery. Some 1,500 could be handled on one reel. Adoption of the V symbol is regarded as a major WWII propaganda coup after Churchill popularized the "V for Victory" sign. BBC broadcasts to Occupied Europe started with the opening notes of Beethoven's Fifth which sound like Morse for "V." Even the Nazis tried to cash in on it, claiming the word "victory" was of German-Latin origin.

1987-88 Priority Goals. Meeting in Washington, five national committees handling security, legislative, employment and civil service, hospital and prisoner-of-war and missing-in-action issues, working with Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, developed this year's priority goals, based on resolutions adopted at the 88th National Convention. 18

Santa's Soldiers by Dick O'Donnell. Christmas is a time of happiness for young and old. Many a veteran can remember a special Christmas while in service. Here are the stories of how Christmas affected an underage youth in the Army, a couple united after he had been declared missing-in-action, the first U.S. Olympic gold medal winner, an unknown hospitalized veteran and enemy soldiers. 20

Pearl Harbor's Great Avenger by Capt. Elias B. Mott, USN (Ret.). Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USS Enterprise in a series of engagements destroyed the Japanese ships and many of the planes and pilots that attacked the huge U.S. Navy base. The writer says the carrier's raids "let the Japanese know we were there and willing to fight." He served on the Enterprise. 26

Atrocities, Malmedy: 6-24 by Gustav Berle. At the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, the Nazi SS Kampfgruppe Peiper massacred scores of Americans, members of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, who had surrendered near Malmedy, Belgium. This inflamed American trooper who vowed vengeance against Hitler's elite SS. 30

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Photo by Tal Wilson

VFW Record on Vietvets Speaks for Itself



By Commander-in-Chief
Earl L. Stock, Jr.

Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, who chairs the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, has congratulated the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for the support it has given Congress in protecting and strengthening programs for Vietnam veterans.

Rep. Montgomery made his views known in a recent letter to your Commander-in-Chief.

"Our success thus far during this Congress and in previous Congresses has been directly related to the deep concern and involvement of the VFW, not just on behalf of our members but for all veterans," Montgomery wrote.

"The VFW should take great pride in its instrumental role in the formation and passage of legislation that has refined almost every program administered by the VA during my seven years as chairman," he continued.

"Our record on behalf of veterans of all wars is impressive, but I thought you might be particularly interested in a recap of what we have been able to do, working together, for our Vietnam Era veterans in the past few years."

Rep. Montgomery said the key to the success of Congress in working on behalf of the Vietnam veterans "is the VFW's ability to listen to its membership and to clearly convey the members' views and concerns to Congress."

Referring to Vietnam veterans, Rep. Montgomery said Congress has

recognized that those who served in Southeast Asia "were thrust into conditions unlike those of any previous conflict or war."

As a result, Congress developed and adopted special legislation to meet the special needs of Vietnam veterans.

"VFW testimony, personal contacts and perseverance are indelibly etched into its accomplishments since 1981," Chairman Montgomery wrote.

In the 97th Congress, these include:

- Priority hospital care for Agent Orange veterans.
- Expansion of the scope of the multi-million dollar Agent Orange epidemiological study to include exposure to other herbicides, chemicals, medications or environmental hazards or conditions.



A few days after visiting in the Oval Office with Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock and Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office, President Reagan announced his support for legislation that would elevate the Veterans Administration to cabinet level. With them at extreme left is VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage. See Washington Wire for additional information on the VA story.

■ A three-year extension (through Sept. 30, 1984) of the Readjustment Counseling Program.

■ Two extensions of the time period for Vietnam Era veterans to use their GI Bill entitlements for apprenticeship, on-the-job training and vocational and secondary education.

■ Increased job training and job placement help for unemployed and underemployed veterans, particularly those of the Vietnam Era.

■ A three-year extension (through Sept. 30, 1984) of the Veterans' Readjustment Appointment Authority (VRAA) allowing non-competitive

appointments of Vietnam Era veterans to federal civilian jobs.

Discussing the Readjustment Counseling Program, Montgomery wrote that the program now contains 189 storefront-type Vet Centers and that more than 500,000 veterans and members of their families have been counseled for a variety of problems, including employment, marital and post-traumatic stress disorder.

As for training and education, Montgomery said Vietnam Era veterans have been given more time to use their GI Bill entitlements than have those of World War II or the Korean War.

In addition, Vietnam Era veterans proportionally have had a greater rate of participation in GI Bill training than other veterans, Montgomery continued. Approximately 66% of the eligible Vietnam veterans have

taken training, compared with 50.5% of the eligible WWII veterans and 43.4% of the Korean War veterans.

In the 98th Congress, accomplishments include:

■ Establishment of the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act (EVJTA) to help ease chronic veterans' unemployment, especially among Vietnam Era veterans.

■ Extension of the termination date for the Vet Centers through 1988, an additional four years.

■ A major nationwide study of post-

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**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
 OF THE UNITED STATES**

Published monthly except July

VFW OBJECTIVES

To insure the national security through maximum military strength
 To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
 To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
 To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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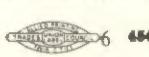
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MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU
 OF CIRCULATION

(ISSN 0161-8598)

traumatic stress disorder and other Vietnam veteran psychological problems.

■ A 10% cost-of-living increase in Vietnam Era GI Bill entitlements effective Oct. 1, 1984, the first since 1981.

■ A two-year extension (through Sept. 30, 1986) for the VRAA.

A three-month extension for the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Program.

■ To place these veterans in productive jobs, establishment of a four-year pilot program of vocational training for younger veterans disabled after service and placed on the pension rolls.

■ A disability allowance for two years beginning Oct. 1, 1984, for veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange and within a year of leaving the Vietnam theater developed chloracne or PCT, a liver condition.

■ An Agent Orange advisory committee at the VA.

■ Improved and expanded treatment for Vietnam veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Rep. Montgomery pointed out that the advent of EVJTA marked the first time employers were paid directly to train and hire veterans. Included: reimbursement of half the veteran's starting wage up to \$10,000. Approximately 55,000 veterans have been put back to work through EVJTA.

The 99th Congress:

■ Extended the veterans' job training program through last July 1, reduced the period of unemployment needed to qualify for it and authorized an additional \$65 million for its operation.

■ Established entitlement to hospital care for Agent Orange veterans.

■ Mandated an epidemiological study of the effects of Agent Orange on women veterans of Vietnam service.

■ Twice raised the ceiling on home loan guarantees to prevent a program shutdown, which would have been a blow to Vietnam veterans since they receive more than 40% of

the home loan guarantees.

■ Extended VRAA for three years (through Dec. 31, 1989).

Up to the end of September, the House of Representatives in the 100th Congress had passed laws that would:

■ Require the VA to submit to Congress reports justifying proposals to close or transfer any Vet Center (once Congress received the reports, the VA would be required to wait 120 days before taking any action).
 ■ Extend the Veterans' Job Training Act for three years (through September, 1990) and authorize an additional \$210 million for it.

■ Change the VA home loan guarantee from 60% up to \$27,500 to 40% up to \$40,000 to decrease a veteran's indebtedness in case of default on a low- to moderately-priced VA home mortgage and to enable veterans to buy higher-priced homes. (It would also enable veterans to avoid defaulting on their home loans).

In concluding his letter, Rep. Montgomery wrote that these achievements are in addition to several others: "cost-of-living adjustments, inpatient and outpatient health care, education, vocational rehabilitation, insurance, burial and others that affect Vietnam Era veterans and other veterans as well."

"The committee is proud to work with the VFW," he wrote. "Veterans are fortunate to have this organization looking out for their best interests."

There you have it. No less a personage than the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee has set forth the VFW's record in working for Vietnam Era veterans as they cope with their special problems.

This accolade from Rep. Montgomery should put to rest any unfounded allegations that the VFW has been lying down on the job in its constant demand for special consideration for the Vietnam veteran.

In any event, the 600,000 Vietnam veterans who have joined the VFW know what the VFW has done and will continue to do on their behalf. ■

A VA Probe?

If one-tenth of the charges made by "20/20" against the Veterans Administration are true, Congress should investigate this federal bureau. No need for another debacle like the Lt. Col. Oliver North hearings or the Bork hearings. Congress need only request the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion to obtain 500 serious complaints from disabled veterans against the VA. The complaints should then be turned over to an independent auditor who has no connection with the veterans' organizations or the VA. A thousand complaints compared by the independent auditor to the VA files would soon reveal the truth, and the cost would be a drop in the bucket compared to a Congressional hearing. To turn the complaints over to the VA for a report would be nothing but stupid, just as not appointing a special counsel for investigations of suspected government wrongdoing is stupid and a waste of taxpayers' money. — F.S. Sewell, 3185 Bourgeois Way, San Jose, Calif. 95111.

(Editor's note: Commenting on the "20/20" condemnation of the VA, Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock asserted: "Representing the 2.1 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I must say that I found the report on the Veterans Administration to be most disturbing and serves only to cause unnecessary alarm and concern among America's 28 million veterans. '20/20's condemnation of the VA is unfair.

"We don't deny that in an organization which is the largest of all independent federal agencies, problems would exist. Certainly, the cases reported give testimony to this fact. However, these cases, tragically handled as they were, should not serve as an indictment of the entire VA system. If the VA were as universally bad as '20/20' portrayed it, the system would be in complete disarray.

"As a veterans' service organization, we work closely with America's veterans and the Veterans Administration, and while we are the most ardent critics of the VA, we are also advocates

for a system that handles some 3.8 million disability and survivor cases and provides health care to 3.5 million veterans each year. It's a role we have accepted, based on our experience in working for America's veterans for the past 88 years.")

Lawyer's Fee Issue

The "20/20" program of Oct. 2 should bring the VFW's head out of the sand. If the VFW is for veterans' benefits, it must realize that too much is being spent for national defense at the cost of domestic programs such as the Veterans Administration. The VFW is too naive about President Reagan, the movie star who spent WWII making movies while in uniform. Why can't the VFW set a simple objective of supporting a public law allowing a veteran to pay more than \$10 for an attorney when necessary to fight for benefits? Why continue being an ostrich with its head in the sand? — E.R. Cordes, Member, Post 5118, Box 21, McDaniel, Md. 21647.

(Editor's note: Members who have strong feelings about an issue should work within their Posts to generate support, continue on to the Department level and then to the National Convention where VFW positions are mandated.)

He Remembers

Ted R. Wesler asks in the September Mail Call "Any WW I Veteran Remember?" Any soldier of the Rainbow Division who was in the Champagne-Marne battle, July 14 to 18, 1918, remembers only too well the night of July 14. Two armies on a 40-mile front were ready to slug it out.

The Rainbow Division on July 4, 1918, was attached to and became part of the 4th French Army of the Champagne under that famous and wonderful general, Henri Gouraud. The Germans picked Bastille Day to start their drive on Paris, as they thought the French would all be drunk. On July 14, the Rainbow Division held a front of ten miles.

At 11:50 p.m. the French and American artillery opened fire. At midnight the German barrage started. This was the greatest concentration of artillery fire the world had ever known. People read the daily paper by its light in Paris, 40 miles away. The French were not drunk on that day and neither were the Americans. Wine was issued daily at 10 a.m. because water was not available. As we know, the German drive was stopped, and this was the last concerted effort by the Germans to launch another attack.

Casualties were heavy, and I know the field hospitals and evacuation hospitals were overflowing. It must have been terrible, trying to keep up with the wounded, as there were many casualties. — Howard M. Woodward, (Co. E, 117th Eng.), 8405 S.W. 24th Ave., Portland, Ore. 97219.

Korean War Bronze Star?

For a World War II award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge, the Bronze Star was retroactively authorized in 1947. This did not apply later to Korean War veterans. I have written several Senators and Representatives that this be corrected. Please write yours and ask that Korean War veterans be awarded the Bronze Star on the same basis as those of WWII. — Peter J. Mariotti, 411 Coram Ave., Shelton, Conn. 06484.

Clean Up Cemeteries

I would like to see the VFW and other veterans' organizations designate a time for cleaning up veterans' cemeteries and even ask for community assistance in this. In addition, veterans' organizations should keep a list of veterans buried in various cemeteries and see that their names are included in any memorial services. — Karl H. Berger, P.O. Box 206, Needville, Texas 77461.

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Doctors,
hospitals
and
nursing
homes are
charging
more and
more.



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AMERICANS
HAVE
NARROWED**

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WASHINGTON WIRE

LEGISLATIVE

President, House Nudge VA Closer to Cabinet Level: The day before Veterans Day, President Reagan announced his support for giving the Veterans Administration cabinet-level status, a longsought VFW goal. "There is no better time or better way to salute those valiant men and women than to announce my decision to support the creation of a cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs," he said. "This is a personal decision that I have thought about for some time. Veterans always have had a strong voice in our government. It's time to give them the recognition they so rightly deserve." VA Administrator Thomas K. Turnage called Reagan's endorsement "a historic gesture" and an "unparalleled tribute" to the nation's 27 million veterans. As Reagan was making his announcement, the House Government Operations Committee unanimously approved legislation to upgrade the VA. This followed recent hearings by a subcommittee of the House committee, chaired by Rep. Jack Brooks, on the VA cabinet bill, H.R. 3471. After the President's announcement, Sen. John Glenn, who chairs the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, set hearings on Senate VA legislation for February. Sen. Strom Thurmond's S. 533 until recently had more than 30 cosponsors, and VFW members are being encouraged to urge their Senators to join in sponsoring S. 533. The House bill, H.R. 3471, is similar to one introduced by Rep. Gerald Solomon with more than 250 cosponsors.

Following is the text of the VFW's statement at the House Committee on Government Operations hearings as delivered by Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the VFW Washington Office:

"At the outset, I would like to commend you for introducing legislation (H.R. 3471) which would provide for the establishment of a Department of Veterans Affairs and for holding this hearing, demonstrating your commitment to advancing this long-overdue legislation.

"In my 25 years in Washington as a veterans' advocate, I have seen many bills introduced to make the Veterans Administration a cabinet department. For 25 years, I have longed to see the VA gain the recognition and status it so richly deserves. Today, by the mere fact of your conducting this hearing, we are closer than ever before in achieving cabinet status for the Veterans Administration.

"There are many compelling reasons for making the Veterans Administration an executive branch department. The VA is currently the largest independent agency and employs the second largest number of personnel in the federal government. The VA serves a more diverse cross section of our nation's population than any other department or agency. These individuals, consisting of nearly 28

million veterans, along with their dependents and survivors, comprise approximately one-third of the nation's total population. Even so, the VA Administrator has only limited access to the President and may communicate only indirectly with the White House through a White House staffer. Upgrading the Veterans Administration to cabinet level will rectify this totally unacceptable situation.

"The VA administers a number of programs that contribute directly to the welfare of this nation's veterans and the national economy. By operating the largest independent hospital system in the free world, the VA has a direct impact on all phases of medical care and research which take place in this country. The importance of the Veterans Administration was reaffirmed on Nov. 21, 1983, with the passage of Public Law 98-160, the Veterans' Health Care Amendments of 1983, which contains the sense of the Congress that the Veterans Administration should be made a cabinet level department.

"We would point out that upgrading the VA to cabinet level does not in any way constitute an expansion of the current bureaucracy and that during the last Congress, the Congressional Budget Office determined that the cost associated with such an action would be insignificant. However, it would have the highly salutary effect of providing better representation to America's veterans and their survivors and dependents. The Veterans of Foreign Wars firmly believes that America's veterans truly deserve to be heard at the highest level of American government.

"A majority of the members of the House of Representatives support making the Veterans Administration a cabinet department. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Reps. Gerald Solomon, G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery and John Paul Hammerschmidt for their efforts in spearheading this drive. Please be assured the Veterans of Foreign Wars stands ready to assist you in any way we can in the enactment of your historic bill, H.R. 3471."

Also testifying at this hearing were Reps. Montgomery, chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC); Solomon, ranking minority member of HVAC; Douglas Applegate, chairman of the HVAC Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, and Sen. Thurmond, ranking minority member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Montgomery asserted this is "a great day for veterans" and added "when the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Rep. Brooks), chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations, puts his stamp of approval on a bill, its chances of being adopted in the House are increased substantially."

Solomon testified: "By authorizing cabinet status

WASHINGTON WIRE

for the Veterans Administration, we would ensure that its chief executive officers fully participate in top level decisions and policymaking on issues having a direct effect on America's veterans."

Applegate augmented these statements by pointing out that "one of the most important chairs in the cabinet room is reserved for the secretary of defense, the one person who supervises the millions of soldiers, sailors and airmen of the United States. But isn't it equally important that we continue to provide the same level of care and concern for these same individuals following their service to our nation?"

Rounding out the panel, Thurmond closed with this: "It would be most appropriate for the principal federal agency charged with providing benefits and services to veterans, their dependents and survivors to have cabinet level status. The honor and respect due our veterans requires no less."

SERVICE

Exercise All Your Rights: If your VA claim has been denied, don't give up. You can appear personally before a VA rating board for an oral presentation, accompanied by the VFW Department Service Officer who will help prepare for the hearing and represent you. This is part of your right to due process. You should exercise this if there is any question that a claim has been denied because of faulty or inadequate data.

POW Medal: The Prisoner of War Medal is expected to be ready in bulk later this month. An application is being prepared and will be distributed to post offices and veterans' organizations. VFW Department Service Officers can help veterans complete the forms if they have difficulty.

SECURITY

Chief Puts Priority on POW/MIAs: Commander-in-Chief Stock has emphasized to Administration and Congressional leaders the great importance the POW/MIA cause is to the VFW and its members. He met with Defense and State Department leaders to urge that the government use every resource to resolve the POW/MIA issue soonest.

He gave Congressional leaders copies of VFW resolutions and repeated his demand for action on POW/MIAs.

In remembrance of POW/MIA Recognition Day, Stock wrote Department Commanders to honor Sept. 18 as POW/MIA Recognition Day and asked them to urge local mayors and municipal councils to support the POW/MIAs by flying the POW/MIA flag. He also reminded them of VFW resolutions supporting the POW/MIAs by display of a POW/MIA flag at Posts,

Districts, County Councils and Departments and of a POW/MIA streamer for the VFW flags.

POW/MIA Recognition Day honor ceremony was held at the Pentagon on Sept. 18, attended by members of the VFW Washington Office. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger reaffirmed the government's commitment to the POW/MIAs and their families. Speaking on behalf of President Reagan, he said the government has a commitment to the missing servicemen and this commitment would be kept.

Congressional Hearings on POW/MIAs: A House Armed Services Committee panel has completed a review of last year's allegation of problems at the Army's Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) in Hawaii and studied action the Army has taken since several POW/MIA families challenged the lab's identity findings.

Chaired by Rep. Bill Nichols, the panel questioned Army leaders about improvements to the lab recommended by an Army internal review of procedures and resources at the facility. Army witnesses told the Subcommittee on Investigations that new equipment and more employees have been provided. A prominent forensic anthropologist has been added to the staff to supervise the work of the lab. Representatives of the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Army have been assigned to the lab to improve coordination between the laboratory and service personnel and medical offices.

Just as important, new procedures have been adopted at the lab to prevent misidentification of remains. Now, identification results are reviewed by a second staff anthropologist before they are forwarded to the lab's scientific director and its commander. If there is any dissatisfaction, the results are subjected to more work. If approved, they will be forwarded to a panel of three forensic scientists who will check the identification and the lab's procedures.

If the panel agrees with the lab's findings, the appropriate military service will then notify the next-of-kin of the tentative identification. The next-of-kin has the option of obtaining a private opinion of the identification, and all lab findings will be provided to the consultants. If the next-of-kin accepts the tentative identification, the findings will be reviewed by the newly-established Armed Forces Identification Review Board. It will review the findings, approve or reject them and authorize the remains to be turned over to the next-of-kin. If the case is disapproved, the remains will be returned to the lab. These procedures will be followed for those remains recently turned over to the U.S. by Vietnam as well as those recently recovered from Guadalcanal.

Vietnam itself, wracked by economic troubles, is reported to have been told to resolve differences with U.S. if interested in new trade links with other Asian countries.

MAIL CALL

continued from page 7

Boost Membership, He Says

As a veteran of WWII who served in the U.S.N. and is a Life Member of the VFW, I cannot believe that of 11 million veterans who are eligible to join, there are only 2 million. Come on, vets, give us some more power. — *Nicholas E. Johns, P.O. Box 715, Danielson, Conn. 06239.*

Seeks Information

I am seeking information about the 14th Inf. Regt., attached to the 25th Division, during the Korean War. I am particularly interested in the period from April 9, 1953, when I rotated, to the signing of the ceasefire in July, 1953. Can anyone give me any information, such as where they were committed and the outcome during this period? Also, what other commitments to the present? — *Patrick J. Breslin, Box 6025, Newark, N.J. 07106.*

More Brothers

Members of Post 2901, Cambridge, Ohio, are proud that six brothers, all WW II veterans, belong to our Post. They are Paul, Herschal, Harold, Kenneth, Junior and Charles Todd. Herschal, now deceased, was a member at the time of his death. — *Roy Badnell, Adj. & QM, Post 2901, Cambridge, Ohio 43725.*

Author's Query

For a book about an Anglo-American action in Germany during the Second World War, I am seeking ex-members of the 84th Infantry Division who took part in the attack on Geilenkirchen and its environs, during November, 1944, and the 102nd Infantry Division. — *Ken Ford, 93, Nutshalling Ave., Rounhams, Southampton SO1 8AY, England.*

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VISTAFJORD	Nov. 8: 13 days, 8 ports Nov. 21: 14 days, 9 ports Dec. 5: 14 days, 9 ports	Jan. 4: 12 days, 9 ports Jan. 16: 14 days, 10 ports

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HARTFORD HOLIDAYS

Nearly \$1 Million Gift to Home



R. Robert Dale

Thanks to an Illinois veteran, the VFW National Home will now be able to fund its own scholarship program,

underwritten by one of the largest bequests ever received by this nonprofit organization.

The National Home Board of Trustees unanimously voted to use the money from the R. Robert Dale estate to provide educational support for National Home graduates.

The decision to institute the R. Robert Dale Scholarship was prompted by the benefactor's desire to provide the means to further graduates' education.

Dale was a member of St. Charles, Ill., Post 5036, where he served as Commander in 1964-1965, and was an enlisted man with the 8th Air Force in Europe during World War II.

Dale, who accumulated his fortune through investments, was a 76-year-old bachelor who died in 1983. He was a frequent visitor at the VFW National

Home. Because of his love for children and an interest in their welfare, his estate was divided between the National Home and the Loyal Order of the Moose.

According to National Home Treasurer Joe Epling, the Home had received more than \$870,000 in money, stocks and bonds when the National Home's fiscal year ended in June. Since then, an additional \$83,000 has been received, and bank financiers are currently finalizing details of the estate.

The Dale Scholarships will supplement the ongoing MOC/MOCA Scholarship Program, which has served National Home graduates since 1959.

With the receipt of this bequest, other groups and individuals who have supported the scholarship programs can now channel their aid into other National Home projects. ■

LIMITED EDITION U.S. Constitution Commemorative

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These knives are not copies. These are the original limited edition U.S. Constitution Commemorative Knives that have been carefully layered in pure 24K gold and hand-set with a genuine .25 point full 17 facet diamond (not just a diamond chip) — the same famous knives that have been widely publicized in leading media throughout this great country.

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As befits a tribute of this magnitude, this knife will only be available in limited numbers until the end of this publicity campaign...at that time, the dies will be destroyed and the edition closed forever. Each knife you receive will be engraved with its own individual serial number, assuring you it is a part of this special celebration.

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No dealers please. These famous U.S. Constitution Commemorative Knives will not be sold at this price by the company in any store. To obtain one at this special Celebration Price, you must write to the company before midnight, Jan. 15, 1988.

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Collectors should know that each commemorative knife is covered by the company's standard acquisition guarantee. Should you ever wish to sell or redeem your knife, the company pledges to repurchase it from you anytime you wish for the full cash price you paid.

To obtain your U.S. Constitution Commemorative Knife, send your name and address along with \$5 for each knife. Add just \$2 shipping and handling no matter how many knives you are requesting. Allow up to 60 days for shipment. Mail to: SLM, Dept. DK1414, One American Way, Roanoke, VA 24018-8001 © 1987, DMV, INC.



Shemya Was Cold

Memories of the tiny island of Shemya in the Aleutians were stirred by Howard Silber's article, "Shemya — Cobra of a Different Kind" in the September issue.

Herb Swilling, of Greenville, S.C., recalled that when he was there with USAFSS Communications in 1965-1966, it was a joint operation with the Army and Marines from Adak.

"The duty there went well — just had to work all the time and forget winds, earthquakes and darkness that should not be there," he wrote. "Our main hobbies were looking for glass balls from Russian fishing boats. They came on the shore sometimes."

"It was quite an experience there, and I remember our mascot, Boozer, an Eskimo husky, meeting all the newcomers. Even Bob Hope at one time."

John Skiffington, of Lodi, N.J., was there in 1943 with the 198th Infantry (Separate), the first troops, he wrote, to land on Shemya. He described the island then as "unoccupied and unpopulated, with no building structures at all."

"The CO of the island was a man named Gen. John E. Copeland, and we GIs named Shemya 'Copeland's Concentration Camp.'

"It is true the engineers built an airfield. They cleared the land and leveled the earth, but it was the infantry that carried the steel mats, putting them in place and clipping them in place to make a runway. We worked 12-hour days, 12 on and 12 off, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We also worked alongside the engineers laying roads and building warehouses for the Quartermaster Corps.

"Along with the artillery, we were responsible for the island's defense. We also manned 20mm anti-aircraft, trained by the Navy. The island was supplied by LSTs that made a difficult 40-mile crossing from Attu in the rough Bering Sea. When the airstrip was completed, supplies

came in by C-47s. This ended when a breakwater was built by civilian contractors, and supplies were able to come by ship into a sheltered harbor.

"As the article stated, the Air Force bombed Japan from the base. They bombed the outer islands of Japan. The 11th Air Force's main target was Paramushiru in the Kuriles, the large naval base that was equivalent to Pearl Harbor.

"The 198th was originally the 1st Battalion of the 44th Division's 71st Infantry. It was detached from it at Ft. Lewis, Wash., and served two years in the Aleutians on Adak, Attu and Shemya."

Russell E. Mahaffey, of Ripplemeade, Va., was first sergeant of B Co. of the 18th Engineers Combat Regiment that built the runway on Shemya. He wrote that the task required 18 days, and two C-47s and a PBY used it as soon as it was ready.

Solomon Sacks, of Apollo Beach, Fla., another veteran of what had been the 1st Battalion of the 71st

Infantry, remembered especially the men he served with on Shemya.

"Although the nucleus of Co. B were from New York and environs, a good part of the company were from West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee," he wrote. "A finer bunch of men you couldn't find to spend two years in the islands with. I remember them fondly."

"Eight months after landing on Adak in April, 1943, we shipped out for the bitter end, literally as well as figuratively speaking. Shemya, Attu and Agattu form a triangle about 20 miles apart, 1,400 miles from Alaska and about 500 miles from Kamchatka.

"There were Japanese on Attu, in force. They had no inclination to leave, so it had to be done the hard way. Few prisoners were taken. The next 18 months were divided between Attu and Shemya, building up both islands, including the airport." ■

Army Saved Marines

By D. W. Hyatt

These are belated thanks to the men of the Army 1st Air Cavalry in Vietnam in 1967. No one, I am sure, ever thanked them for the help we were given in Vietnam.

Our squad of Marines was ambushed on patrol half way between two villages, surrounded and outnumbered in poor visibility because of heavy fog and drizzle. We radioed for support troops, gunships and medevacs for our dead and wounded. Over our radio we were told that our own Marine Corps pilots refused to fly the mission because the weather made it too dangerous. We were further advised that we were on our own and to make the best of it. We understood and accepted the

decision and prepared to meet our Maker. There was no way we could get out of there alive.

Then over our radio came the voice of an Army man with the 1st Air Cavalry telling us the unit had monitored our transmission, knew the situation, knew our location and were already on their way. The voice told us to hang in there. In just a few minutes, in came an armada of Army helicopters, ten times the number the Corps would have sent, with the complete works of gunships, troops and medevacs for our dead and wounded. All of us were loaded up, and we got out of there and back to our base, while the 1st Cav took over. They were good. I'll never know

ARMY SAVED

really how they found us to begin with, even with our coordinates.

I know none of use said a word to the Army men because we were too embarrassed that Marines had to be saved by the Army. Plus we were angry that our own kind wouldn't help us and left us to do or die. We couldn't figure out if the Army pilots could do it, the Marine pilots sure should have done it.

It's been 20 years, and thanks are overdue for the Army 1st Air Cav. I hope some of them will see this and know we did appreciate their rescue. Several of us wouldn't be here today if it had not been for them. ■

The writer, who lives in Muskogee, Okla., was a corporal in the Marines' H and S Co., 3/7/1.

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VOD Scholarships Raised

Increases in Voice of Democracy Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 and the addition of two more categories have been announced by Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock.

With the addition of the two new \$1,000 scholarships, their total value has been raised to \$42,000. Before the increases and the new awards, the amount was \$33,500 and ranged from \$14,000 for first place to \$1,000 for sixth and seventh place.

They now are \$16,000 for the first place T.C. Selman Scholarship; \$9,000, second place; \$6,000, third place; \$4,000, fourth place; and \$3,000, fifth place. The Francis J. Tallman Scholarship for sixth place and the Joseph O. Hansen Scholarship for seventh place remain at \$1,000 each.

The two new ones announced are for \$1,000 each. They are the Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarship for eighth place and the Walter and Doris Marshall Scholarship for ninth place.

Commander-in-Chief Stock has established the Robert A. Stock Scholarship in memory of his brother who was killed in World War II. The Walter and Doris Marshall Scholarship has been instituted by Mrs. Doris Marshall to honor her late husband, who chaired the National Voice of Democracy Committee on three separate occasions. Mrs. Marshall is a Past National Director of the Voice of Democracy for the Ladies Auxiliary and continues to promote the program in Montana.

Sponsored by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary, Voice of Democracy is a script-writing competition open to 10th through 12th grade high school students in public, private and parochial schools. Students write a three- to five-minute script on a selected patriotic theme and then record it for judging. Finalists representing each Department receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the National Finals during the annual Mid-Winter Conference.

Announcing the increases, Stock said, "Voice of Democracy is a contest in which everyone who enters is a winner, because, in preparing their

scripts, these students have to make a thorough study of America, from the birth of our country to the present. In doing so, they understand what liberty, freedom and democracy are all about. Knowledge is strength, and that is the kind of strength America needs if we are to remain free."

Seeking Submariners

The United States Submarine Veterans of World War II is trying to find all who served in submarines or in submarine relief crews during that war.

The group is putting together a history of U.S. submariners of World War II. It has completed Volumes I and II and is seeking all available additional biographical information to include in Volume III.

In its search for a complete history, the sub vets have prepared a brochure with necessary information about the history that will be sent to all interested persons. To obtain this information, write Robert A. Link, Chairman, History Book Committee, U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII, 32 W. Bolton Ave., Absecon, N.J. 08201.

Restore Corregidor Memorial

A Congressional delegation that visited the site termed it "almost total desecration," but thanks to a federal and private effort, the Pacific War Memorial on Corregidor should soon be restored to "its rightful place of dignity and respect."

"To allow further deterioration of the memorial and to ignore the need for its restoration and preservation would be tantamount to saying that the deeds of the American and Filipino veterans who fought side by side and who died there are not worthy of tribute. America should not allow that to happen," said Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, who has spearheaded the restoration effort.

Montgomery led a Congressional delegation to the Philippines in April to investigate reports that the memorial, dedicated in 1968, had fallen victim to scavengers and neglect.

"A once beautiful and meaningful monument has been shamefully neglected and allowed to deteriorate to an almost unbelievable extent," the delegation reported.

Following its visit to Corregidor, the delegation met with Philippine President Corazon Aquino and other government officials and urged them to provide security for the island — which they have done — and to allow the American Battle Monuments Commission to play a leading role in the restoration and maintenance of the memorial.

The State Department, with the cooperation of the Department of the Navy, obtained permission from the Philippine government for a Navy Seabee Battalion to clear vegetation, repair access roads and conduct other preliminary work on the island and the memorial.

Vietnam Tokens

An expanded edition of "U.S. & Allied Military Tokens of Vietnam 1962-1973" has been published by its author, Ray Bows, a retired Army sergeant first class and former coin columnist for the European edition of the Stars and Stripes.

To make up for the shortage of American coins in Vietnam after August, 1965, tokens were issued for use in slot machines, the prime source of revenue in clubs for officers and enlisted personnel. GIs sometimes, however, used tokens among themselves to make change.

An innovation in the new edition is the thesis advanced by Bows that the tokens were used in compounds "under siege" because of the nature of the war in Vietnam. Minted privately in Tokyo or Hong Kong, the tokens contain misspellings and inverted letters reminiscent of coinage of besieged European cities before 1800.

Unit designations, insignias, locations and names of fallen comrades were marked on these metal discs, Bows says. The tokens issued in Vietnam should not be confused with counterparts used by U.S. forces in

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other parts of the world because those of Vietnam were issued under fire, during combat.

Further information about his book may be obtained from Bows by writing Bows and Sons, 2055 Washington St., Hanover, Mass. 02339.

VA Employee Wins APHA Award

L. Nan Stout, VA national coordinator for patient health education, is this year's recipient of the American Public Health Association's (APHA) Sarah Mazelis Outstanding Practitioner Award.

A VA employee since 1974, Stout was cited for her role in the growth and development of patient health education in the VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery, the largest medical care system in the country.

The APHA award recognizes consistent, outstanding work in the planning and delivery of health education services to individuals and groups within the community.

Stout, a native of Oklahoma, received a BSN degree from the University of Oklahoma School of Nursing and a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan. She currently resides in Annandale, Va.

VA Cuts Loan Rates

The Veterans Administration has lowered its maximum home loan interest rate to 10.5% from 11%.

VA officials said the action was taken to bring the VA rate more closely in line with the mortgage market and to ensure that funds will continue to be available to veterans seeking to buy or refinance homes.

The last change in the VA interest rate occurred last Oct. 5, when it went up from 10.5% to 11%.

The VA also decreased by .5% the maximum rates for graduated payment mortgages to 10.75%, home improvement loans to 12%, manufactured home loans to 13%, manufactured home lot-only loans to 12.5% and manufactured home and lot loans to 13%.

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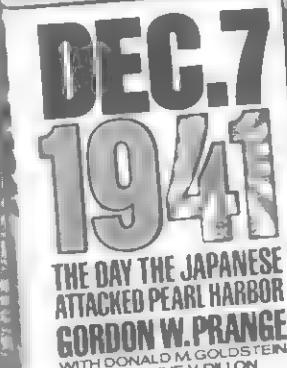
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VFW Priority Goals

1987-1988

Legislative

VA an Executive Department

Elevation of VA to an executive department and its administrator to the President's cabinet.

Aging Veterans

Provision by Congress to the VA of necessary money and staffing to ensure a comprehensive geriatric and extended health care and domiciliary program.

Beneficiary Travel

Restoration of adequate funding of beneficiary travel to provide veterans access to VA medical centers and inclusion of its funding as a line item in VA budget.

Job Training, Retraining

Establishment of a veterans' vocational training and retraining entitlement program that will fulfill all veterans' dynamic employment, training and retraining needs and facilitate adjustment to relocation and new occupational skills.

VA Budget

Prevailing on Congress by VFW to provide VA with enough money to maintain the basic integrity of the VA's entire medical care system and entitlement programs and to prepare properly for increasing demands.

Employment Service

A law to assure adequate staffing and funding to ensure continued preferential services to veterans and eligible members of the Reserve and National Guard; strenuous VFW opposition to any and all attempts to weaken or destroy the nation's Employment Service.

VA Health Care

Continual improvement of the VA's health care system and prevention of its being undermined or eroded in order that treatment always may be provided all veterans seeking VA health care.

Job Training Partnership Act

Preferential services to veterans in all programs authorized by the Job Training Partnership Act in proportion to the veterans' incidence in the population; monitoring and enforcement by the assistant secretary of veterans' employment and training of compliance of veterans' participation.

COLA

Approval of full cost-of-living adjustments for all VA compensation recipients and military retirees.

Veterans' Preference

Reaffirmation by Congress of veterans' preference in all federal employment and a review of federal agencies to ensure veterans' preference is applied in all programs, policies and procedures; vigorous VFW opposition to any effort to reduce veterans' preference in federal, state and local employment.

VA Construction

Adequate funding for VA major and minor construction programs to provide for replacement and modernization of aging VA facilities.

Security

National Defense

A strong national defense, in conjunction with strong and supportive allies, that is the foundation of a foreign policy able to respond successfully to the global challenge of Communism posed by the Soviet Union and its surrogates.

Military Strength, Arms Reductions

Strategic, conventional and counter-terrorist policies and programs that keep pace with the growing range of threats to U.S. security; mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons; arms reduction agreements, which enhance U.S. national security and national security interests abroad and reduce the risk of nuclear conflict.

Central America

Bipartisan support for a Central American policy which supports democratic governments and movements and deals firmly with the Communist intrusion into the region; assistance to the region's democratic governments and movements to remove Communism from the area and to deal with Central America's economic problems; maintenance by the President and Congress of close surveillance of Cuban activities, recognizing the client state role Communist Cuba plays for the USSR as instigator and supplier for Marxist revolutionaries.

Strategic Defense

Studies into the modernization needs of the almost non-existent air defenses to protect against bombers and cruise missiles and the underfunded and totally ignored Civil Defense needs of the U.S. and its citizens; a study of the implications of a shift in U.S. policy and strategy from deterrence to defense in view of the radical effect deployment of a strategic defense system may have on national defense policy and military strategy — all in conjunction with the ongoing research into strategic defense that is supported by the VFW as offering the possibility of protecting the U.S. and its allies from ballistic missile attacks and as a program essential in maintaining U.S. lead in certain space-related technologies and to prevent a Soviet breakthrough in anti-missile defenses.

POW/MIA

Use of full government resources at maximum capacity to provide fullest possible accounting of U.S. POW/MIAs as soon as possible; display by all Posts of the POW/MIA flag and addition of black streamer as reminder of VFW determination to keep this issue a non-negotiable matter of American honor; maximum economic and diplomatic

pressure by the government on Southeast Asia countries that fail to recognize U.S. government's and VFW's firm resolve in this humanitarian issue; to continue VFW public awareness pressure; to continue basing of VFW position on evaluation of the best possible information. (VFW supports appointment of a Presidential emissary empowered to receive full information and to resolve the status of those still missing and urge all those concerned to unite in support of these efforts.)

Armed Forces

Full VFW commitment to recognizing the military profession as a calling, not a job; employers' support of the men and women in the National Guard and Reserves as vital components of the Total Force; continued application of the Montgomery Amendment, permitting overseas deployment of Guard units for training purposes to insure that the National Guard remains a vital part of the Total Force; a petition by the VFW to Congress to enact legislation to provide 30 days of leave for all Reservists who are government employees.

Persian Gulf

Authority for the military to respond to threats to its security; imminent danger pay to U.S. service personnel, along with an appropriate expeditionary tour medal. (VFW supports U.S. naval and air forces deployed to the Persian Gulf to protect U.S. interests in this vital region and the U.S. assertion of free world leadership.)

NATO

An increase by NATO members of their annual defense budgets to ensure NATO's forces the full capability of meeting greater common defense needs; continued deployment of adequate U.S. forces under NATO and of nuclear munitions to assure continued deterrence. (VFW reaffirms its support for NATO.)

Pacific Allies

Political, economic and military support by the U.S. government of the Philippines government to remain a strategic asset to the defense of the Pacific; increased U.S. support for the Republic of Korea; re-establishment of formal relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan; caution in U.S. dealings with Red China and the Soviet Union; purchase by the Republic of China of modern aircraft and missiles to improve its self-defense capability.

Terrorism

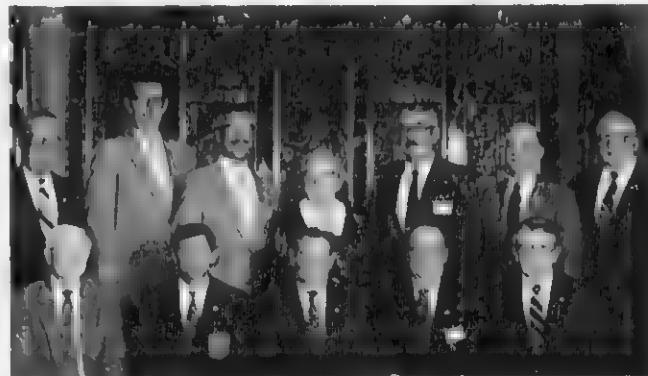
Adoption of a full range of measures to deter, guard against and combat terrorists wherever they are located; a reminder to other countries that "there are no neutrals in the war against terrorists."

Committees Develop Goals

Chairmen and vice chairmen of these committees met with national officers to develop the 1987-88 Legislative and National Security Goals based on resolutions adopted at the VFW 88th National Convention.



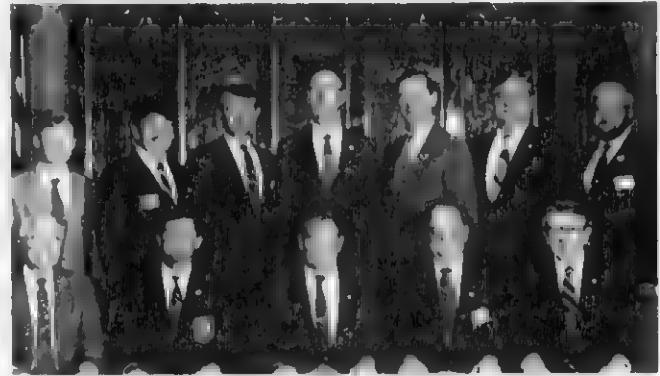
NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Seated, Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt; Norman G. Staab, chairman; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers; Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr., and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally G. Hogan. Standing, Jerry A. Williams and Edward A. Trennert, vice chairmen; Robert L. Jones, special assistant for employment; Benjamin Pernol, Jr., vice chairman, and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Vice Chairman John Furgess, not shown.



NATIONAL HOSPITAL COMMITTEE: Seated, Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers; Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock; Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally G. Hogan and Adjutant General Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Standing, Donald A. Nikkel and Allan G. Grice, vice chairmen; Frederico Juarbe, Jr., director, National Veterans Service; Mary Gamba, chairman; Harold M. Seren, Jr., assistant director, National Veterans Service, and Allen Q. Jones and Arthur H. Shultz, vice chairmen.



NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Seated, Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt; Mary Lou Wise, Auxiliary liaison; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers; Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr.; Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally G. Hogan and Adjutant General Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Standing, Elmo J. Whitmore and J.P. Cockrell, vice chairmen; Dennis M. Cullinan, assistant director, National Legislative Service; Clyde A. Lewis, chairman; Gordon A. Thorson, special assistant, National Legislative Service; Alcuin G. Loehr and George Van Allen, vice chairmen, and James N. Magill, director, National Legislative Service.



NATIONAL POW/MIA COMMITTEE: Seated, Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers; Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr.; Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally G. Hogan and Adjutant General Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Standing, Raymond G. Hanley, Jr. and Leroy Ford, vice chairmen; Kenneth A. Steadman, director, National Security Foreign Affairs; John Mergenthal, vice chairman; William G. Smith, director, Public Affairs; Edward L. Andrew, administrative assistant to the executive director, and Ralph R. Johnson, vice chairman. Billy Ray Cameron, chairman, not shown.



NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Seated, Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt; Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers; Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr.; Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally G. Hogan and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. Standing, Morris J. Krouse and Newman T. Braaten, vice chairmen, and Kenneth A. Steadman, director, National Security and Foreign Affairs; Stanley E. Grubaugh, vice chairman, and Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Jr.; Russell D. Truax, vice chairman, and Inspector Gen. Peter E. Olson. Chairman Albert G. Salmon, not shown.

Santa's S O L D I E R S

By Dick O'Donnell

They called him The Kid.

He was 15 at the most, and the other soldiers in his outfit, officers included, all knew he should be back home in school rather than in the trenches on the Metz Front, near Auseville, France.

An effort was being made to unsnarl the red tape and send him home, but until that happened he was in the ranks, and he had to do his share.

It was 1917 — a bleak and bitter December in a war-ravaged foreign land — and Christmas was coming. At times, The Kid would lose his military poise, become a boy again, and yearn for his parents back home.

"He was a lonely little figure," recalled Salvation Army Brigadier Stella Young, now 90, and living in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. "He had used false papers to get into the service. I've been told he was a good soldier, but as Christmas approached, it was obvious to all of us in the Salvation Army shelter, he was much too young to have seen so much of death. He belonged at home on Christmas Day."

"We decided to have a Christmas party for the boy. I'll never forget Christmas that year. We didn't have much, but in many ways, it was one of the most rewarding Christmases of my life."

The soldiers from the boy's unit did their best to decorate the small shelter. They found colored paper, cut out stars and bells and put them up in the hut. There were no gifts. Some of the soldiers shared food packages from home. They sang carols, and they prayed together. It wasn't an elaborate Christmas: no turkeys and trimmings.

Yet it was nice. There was a war going on outside the Salvation Army hut, but inside there was peace.

As for The Kid, he had a joyous Christmas. They say he cried when he was brought into the little hut by his fellow soldiers.

"As they came through the door," recalled Stella Young, "I remember the love on the faces of those men. For a few

Yuletide Joy



moments, they weren't warriors. They were Santa's soldiers. At least that's the way I've always thought of them."

That Christmas day The Kid laughed, sang and prayed with his buddies. A short time later, he went home and escaped the rest of the war that was to end the lives of many of his friends who had celebrated Christmas, 1917, with him.

Jim Connolly was a foot soldier in the ranks, and on the shoulder of his khaki uniform, there was a small green patch with the head of a golden stag on it.

The insignia was not regulation, but no officer in the battalion questioned Connolly's right to wear it.

"It is my lucky charm," said Connolly, who later became a writer. "I wore it first when I was in Europe in 1896. Later on, in Cuba, there was dysentery, malaria and yellow fever, and the golden stag's head worked its magic again for me. It protected me from enemy fire, too, and from that embalmed beef the Army used to ship down for us to eat."

"Later on, when I sent stories to the magazines about the troubles in Mexico, and the Black and Tans, and the Big War, that little insignia was with me, stuffed in my money purse."

The golden stag's head was found in a bureau drawer near Connolly's bed, when he passed away in 1957.

He had received it as a Christmas gift in 1895 from members of the Suffolk Athletic Club in South Boston, where Connolly was born.

The Suffolk A.C. had only eight or ten members, and the clubhouse was an old stable. Connolly was representing the club in an upcoming European athletic competition despite the fact club members lacked funds to pay any of his expenses.

They did scrape together enough money to hire a woman to crochet an insignia for Connolly to wear on his jersey in Europe. It was to be a large golden stag's head, the club's official emblem. Regrettably, the woman was not given specific instructions as to size, and the final product was much smaller than anticipated.

Nevertheless, the stag's head was a Christmas gift for the club's outstanding athlete, and it was given to him with great pomp and ceremony on the holiday.

"I had bought an American emblem to wear," Connolly said later. "The stag's head was much too small. Still I put the emblem aside, and pinned the stag's head to my jersey when I competed in the hop, hop and jump over in Athens, Greece. After all, I was representing the Suffolk A.C. That golden stag's head was my Christmas gift."

On April 5, 1896, James B. Connolly, of Boston, became the first American ever to win a gold medal in the Olympics — which may explain why no officer in his outfit ever challenged Connolly's right to wear his unique Christmas gift — the golden stag's head — as a shoulder patch on his uniform.

Champ's Gift



It is a story that has been told before. Yet it is always worth repeating.

Some claim the episode took place during the War Between the States. Others believe it happened during the Franco-Prussian War.

The most widely accepted version takes place on a lonely battlefield in France during World War I.

It was Christmas Eve, and a cruel wind and a bitter cold had iced the mud inside the trenches, making life miserable for the soldiers in them.

Occasionally, a random shot would be fired to remind one and all that, despite the otherwise peaceful silence, a war was going on. The Americans and Germans were a few hundred yards from each other with only barbed wire and fear keeping them apart.

In the distance, the bells of a church tolled. It was midnight. There were no shots now. It was Christmas Day!

No doubt, in their trenches, the soldiers on both sides paused and commemorated the day, each in his own special way.

For a while, there was darkness and silence and nothing else.

Carol's Peace



Kendall Young

Then a voice was heard — a splendid tenor voice. The words were in German, but the song was known by all.

Some other Germans joined in the singing, and an American, in his own language, became a part of the chorus.

Soon, all of the soldiers were singing "Silent Night."

When the song was over, the darkness and silence prevailed again.

The soldiers sat in their frozen trenches waiting for the sadness of the days ahead to come.

Yet they had triumphed!

For a few fleeting minutes, there was peace on earth, good will towards men.

* * *

Singer Kay Armen had a daily radio show on which she sang hymns during World War II.

"One day," she recalled, "I received a letter from a woman who told me her husband was in the service. She said he was home for the Christmas holidays, after which he was shipped overseas. The woman wrote that, as she was driving her husband to the port of embarkation, they were listening to my program on the air, and they heard me sing a hymn called 'God Will Take Care of You.' When they heard the song, she said they pulled over to the side of the road and stopped and sat there holding hands. She wrote they made the hymn their own special song, because they were far apart and their prayer was that God would take care of them."

The singer said she was greatly impressed by the woman's letter, and she sat down and wrote her "the longest letter I had ever written to a fan."

The months went by, and from time to time, Miss Armen would sing "God Will Take Care of You" on her radio show, because she knew the woman would be listening. Then came a second letter from the woman. Her husband had been reported missing in action.

A Hymn's Wish

Lin Wilson



"Will you sing our song for us as often as you can?" asked the woman. "I know my husband is alive and will return home to me. When I hear you sing it on the radio, it will bring me closer to him."

Thus it was that Miss Armen began to sing "God Will Take Care of You" regularly on her daily program.

"I wrote to the woman," she said, "and I told her that all of us on the radio show knew her husband was alive. I told her we all had faith he would return, and I promised to sing the song as often as I could get it on the show."

The weeks dragged into months, and "God Will Take Care of You" was sung many, many times. For a while, it appeared the hopes and prayers behind the song had not accomplished their purpose.

Then, as Christmas approached again, the singer received a third letter from her friend. Her husband was alive and soon would be returning home to her.

That Christmas Day, Kay Armen sang "God Will Take Care of You" once more. Out among her invisible listeners, there sat a young couple, holding hands again, as their song was sung by their favorite singer.



His name was Jamey, and he spent the last 32 Christmases of his life in a veterans hospital in Brighton, Mass.

He was also called The Unknown Soldier because, to this day, nobody has ever discovered his real name.

Jamey arrived at the hospital on Feb. 10, 1945, and died on the same date in 1977.

He was one of the many wounded soldiers brought back from Europe to the hospital in 1945. He remained there long after the others had gone. His military records were missing.

According to the hospital records: "He was unconscious and moribund, and with him came only a ticket on which was written: 'Charles A. Jameson, 49, religion, Catholic; citizenship, American'."

That was all anybody ever learned about him. His memory was gone. His mind wandered, and he had difficulty concentrating. He was a tragic victim of a brutal war. Nobody ever visited him.

Jamey loved Christmas. When the little tree was placed on the table beside his bed, his eyes would sparkle, and he would smile.

His joy was obvious to all. He would walk with his cane through the wards and wish one and all a Merry Christmas. There were gifts for him — books, candy, handkerchiefs, all bought by the nurses, doctors and fellow patients at the hospital.

He would join in the singing when the carolers came to his room, and he would pray with the chaplain who dropped by to visit with him.

On his final Christmas in 1976, he was too feeble to leave his bed. Yet he managed to smile when the little tree was brought in, and he did try to sing when the carolers came by. He even thanked those who brought small gifts to his room. And he prayed with the chaplain.

Christmas, they said, was the one day in the year when Jamey was truly happy.

May all of "Santa's Soldiers" know such a peace — not just for minutes, or hours, or days, but for as long as they live.

May we all know such a peace.

Favorite Season

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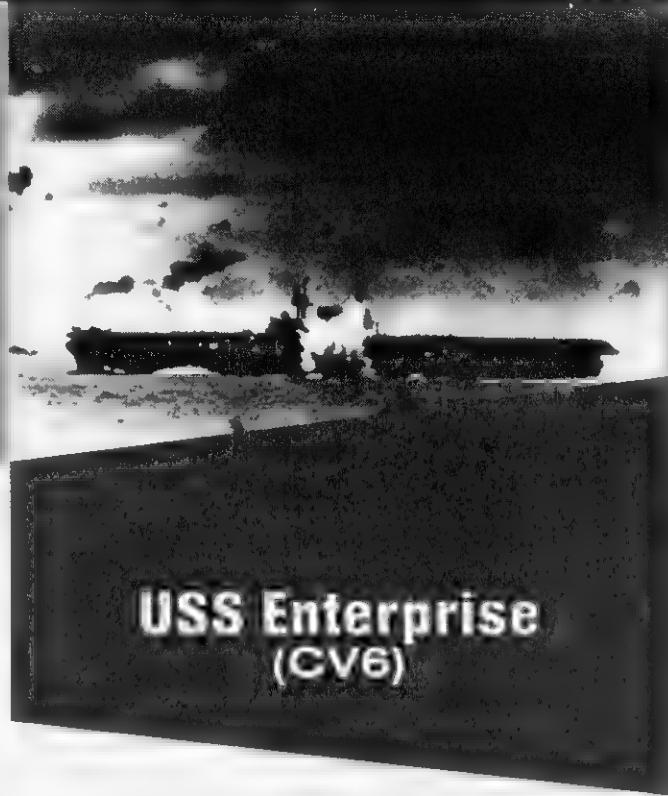
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Pearl Harbor's Great Avenger

By Capt. Elias B. Mott, USN (Ret.)

The USS Enterprise was the great avenger, you know, both as to the Japanese ships and the pilots who actually attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. But let's start at the beginning.

Enterprise was delayed arriving in Pearl Harbor by one day because of a storm that slowed down her task force after delivering 12 Marine fighter planes to Wake Island. On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, we were 150 miles west of Pearl Harbor. We sent in a squadron of scout planes at 0615 to announce our arrival. At about 0815, these planes tangled with the Japanese planes attacking Pearl Harbor. Some were shot down; others were forced to land under fire. During the day, Enterprise sent attack groups in the reported direction of the Japanese forces but found nothing. After a day and night near Kauai and now very low on fuel, we went into Pearl Harbor about sunset on Dec. 8.

The sight that greeted our eyes was sad and shocking. We passed Hickam Field with its burned planes and hangars, then the USS Nevada, grounded and damaged near Hos-

pital Point. In the harbor itself, we saw the ships blown up in drydock on our right and to our left the sunken burning battleships in Battleship Row adjacent to Ford Island. The West Virginia was still burning; the Oklahoma was capsized; the California was sunk as were the others. The Arizona was burning fiercely. The cruisers Honolulu and Raleigh were hit, the latter with her stern under water. The mine layer Oglala was turned over and the Utah, near our berth, was sunk. These and other horrible sights were seen as we rounded Ford Island and neared our berth. The smell of fuel oil on the water and of burning ships and flesh was etched in our memory. No one doubted what would have been our fate had we been there. Everyone aboard was filled with anger, and we took a silent vow to avenge our dead shipmates while we lived. To us, the war had become an instant crusade.

In our berth, we took a tanker alongside and loaded tons of food, stores and equipment during the night. Shortly after mooring, a friend of mine, Lt. Dick Mandelkorn, the

construction officer on the staff of Vice Adm. William Pye, commander battleships, came aboard. He took some hastily written letters of assurance to my family. Then he turned to me and said, "Well, it's up to you boys in the carriers now. Pearl Harbor must be held, and you are all we've got left in the Pacific." Shortly after that, he got a message that tapping was coming from the bottom of the Oklahoma, apparently from men trapped in an air pocket. He hastily left the ship.

During the night, there was sporadic firing in many directions, and it was worth your life to venture out in a boat. We completed fueling and loading stores about 0400 and left the harbor for the open sea.

We went northwest of the island on patrol. Japanese submarines were there all right. Our pilots caught three on the surface in the early morning one day. A direct hit was made on one. Another chose to fight it out on the surface and fired anti-aircraft guns at our plane. The pilot placed his bomb alongside the conning tower and was credited with a kill.

Our lookouts jittery, there were many false sightings of periscopes and torpedo wakes. Destroyers depth-charged many blackfish and whales. Vice Adm. William F. Halsey announced that if all the torpedo wakes sighted were real, the Japanese submarines were now out of torpedoes and on their way to Japan to reload. Nevertheless, Japanese subs were out there, as Saratoga was torpedoed in that same area on Jan. 11.

Except for a sortie towards Wake Island to attempt to rescue the Marine garrison, we stayed to guard the approaches to Oahu until about Jan. 8. We arrived near Wake one day too late to relieve the Marines who had fallen to the Japanese. When we were recalled, Adm. Halsey on the flag bridge swore for half an hour.

We went in to Pearl Harbor periodically for a couple of days for replenishment. The news was all bad. The Japanese had landed in the Philippines and were rampaging in the western Pacific and the South China Sea. The British battleships Repulse and Prince of Wales were sunk. Hong Kong was taken and Singapore fell. The people in Pearl and Honolulu were not pleased to see us. They had a real fear we would bring the Japanese. The frustration, gloom and doom and even despair were almost palpable ashore. We were glad to get to sea and out of that atmosphere.

Then on Jan. 10 we loaded fuel oil and every conceivable type of stores. As someone said, "We are loaded for bear." Next day we left Pearl and were joined by three cruisers, six destroyers and an oil tanker. We headed south for many days until we reached the vicinity of Samoa. We then formed a defensive line west of Samoa to guard the landing

of a strong force of Marines to protect these islands. We actually got close enough to see an island of the British Samoas.

These raids were mere pin pricks in the light of future operations, but they let the Japanese know we were there and were willing to fight.

Finally, we were told we were to have the honor of being the first to strike Japanese-held territory since Pearl Harbor. Adm. Halsey's force consisted of Enterprise and Yorktown and their cruisers and destroyers. Yorktown was to hit the Gilbert and southern Marshall Islands, and the Enterprise force was to hit the central Marshall Islands. The purpose was to blunt any offensive toward Samoa, Fiji and the Australian lifeline. For five days, we steamed northwestward and, after fueling, made the run in. Toward sunset of the last day, radar picked up a blip of a plane far astern. He slowly crossed and kept on going. I was afraid he would see our long wakes. We couldn't afford to be seen and were greatly relieved when he disappeared from the radar screen.

At first light on Feb. 1, 1942, we launched our planes toward Kwajalein and Roi. A few minutes later we could see Wotje Island, and our fighters were strafing it. We could see fires starting and Japanese anti-

aircraft fire. Soon after, the 8-inch shells of two cruisers were pounding the island. Another cruiser hit Malolap.

The first inland strike was on the well-equipped island of Roi. It was from that island that the many "Nell" land-based bombers were dispatched to Wake Island for the two weeks before that island fell. The commander of Scouting Squadron 6, Lt. Cdr. Hal Hopping, was first to dive on the alerted base. He was shot down and killed by a fighter and anti-aircraft fire. Subsequent attacks made a shambles of the island.

Our dive bombers then attacked Kwajalein Harbor and radioed for more attacks on shipping. With torpedo planes, they sank or damaged 75,000 tons of shipping, including a large liner, a cruiser, merchant ships, tankers and submarines. We learned later they also killed the Japanese admiral in command.

The biggest surprise, however, came when six fighter planes investigated the island of Taroa. Instead of the small coral strip expected, they found a modern air base with two-mile-long concrete runways, hangars and a small navy yard. Most alarming were 40 twin-engine Betty bombers parked by the runways. The fighters radioed for help and soon everyone was hitting the island in spite of fighter opposition. We didn't want those bombers attacking us.

After nine hours in the same area and seven hours of continuous attacks, about 1300, it was suggested to Adm. Halsey that maybe it was time to get out of that hornet's nest. The admiral agreed, and we started to make 30 knots toward Pearl Harbor.

Only we were a little late. About 1340, while we were in Condition Two (for a meal), five twin-engine Betty bombers, all that remained on

Taroa, came out of the clouds in a formation glide of about 30°. Our 5-inch guns were not effective, and Combat Air Patrol never caught them. Our automatic weapons were behind at first but finally bit into them. They pulled up sharply and dropped their pattern of 15 bombs, which missed us rather closely on the port quarter.

One of the bombers was smoking (and not from spontaneous combustion, in spite of subsequent remarks about our anti-aircraft fire). This bomber circled astern and came in to crash the ship. As it was aiming directly at the stack and myself in sky control, I exhorted the after 1.1-inch quadruple mounts, the only ones that could bear, to "get them up" and hit it. No. 3 mount did so, and I saw the tracers enter the cockpit. The plane then slewed left slightly and lost altitude. It kept coming over the stern of the ship about ten feet above the flight deck. I looked down and could see the dead pilot slumped over. The plane hit one of our parked planes and its wing hit a forward 5-inch gun as it went over the side. Everyone was shocked by this close call, including Adm. Halsey, who had ducked inside.

As we sped toward Pearl at 30 knots, two of the bombers came back a couple of hours later and made a high altitude run on the ship at about 13,000 feet. Wade McClusky, in his fighter, could not catch up with them, so he did the next best thing. By radio he spotted for our 5-inch anti-aircraft fire until we hit one of the planes. However, they both dropped their bombs which we avoided by a sharp turn at the moment of release. The fighters then did their work on them, shooting one down and smoking the other.

The evening promised to be fraught with peril, and there was a full moon. As soon as we cleared the Marshalls, Adm. Halsey turned northwest and lucky Enterprise found a weather front. To the south of us, we spotted many search planes on the radar on a northeasterly course look-

ing for us.

We reached Pearl Harbor on Feb. 5. Going in the channel, troops from the forts cheered as we passed, also the doctors, nurses and others at Hospital Point. Then all the ships around the harbor manned the rails and cheered us in. Our crew at quarters on the flight deck responded with their own cheers. Adm. Nimitz was on the dock to greet us.

I have gone into the Marshall Island raid at some length as it was the first American attack against Japanese-held territory. It may have stopped any immediate offensive against Samoa or Fiji. But most of all it changed the mood completely of the military and civilians in Hawaii and brought a quiet spirit of optimism in spite of continuing bad news. Even so, the civilian population didn't like to see us back in port.

Eight days later, we were to continue our raids deep in enemy territory. The first was an attack on Wake Island. It was a coordinated air attack and cruiser bombardment which caused much damage. We went directly to Japanese Marcus Island about 900 miles from Japan and left it in a shambles.

These raids were mere pin pricks in the light of future operations, but they let the Japanese know we were there and were willing to fight.

Then we met the Hornet and her group in the mid-Pacific in April. Adm. Halsey and the Enterprise led the Hornet to the launch point off Tokyo. Because we were sighted early by Japanese picket boats, Adm. Halsey gave the order to launch Lt. Col. James Doolittle and his gallant pilots at 650 miles. A hundred miles further out than originally planned. The weather was rough and the launching was a spectacular sight. This raid, too, was a pin prick compared to later bombings of Japan. But the sacred soil of Japan had never been bombed and Emperor Hirohito had been endangered. This proved to be a psychological blockbuster to the Japanese military. It speeded up plans for the Midway

operation less than seven weeks later.

It was at Midway that the Enterprise took the opportunity to fulfill our vow against the attackers of Pearl Harbor. Wade McClusky spotted the Japanese carriers at the point of no return. Hornet's dive bombers continued toward Midway and missed the carriers entirely.

It was Scouting 6 from Enterprise and Bombing 6 that attacked and fatally damaged the carriers Akagi (flagship at Pearl) and the Kaga. Yorktown planes shortly after likewise dispatched the Soryu. This left the *Hiryu*, whose planes attacked the Yorktown twice. Some Yorktown planes then were forced to land on Enterprise and Hornet.

Later Enterprise dive bombers, accompanied by Yorktown planes which had come aboard, attacked the *Hiryu* with results that caused the sinking of that ship. This accounted for four of the six carriers that attacked Pearl Harbor. Three of them were sunk by planes from the deck of the Enterprise. *Hiryu* and *Soryu* also spearheaded the attack which resulted in the fall of Wake Island.

In sinking the *Kaga*, we also avenged our gunboat *Panay*, sunk in the Yangtze River before the war. This story came to me from Capt. Brad Williams USN (Ret.), an old friend and shipmate from Enterprise. Brad was our radar officer. Several years after the war, he got the story from the Rev. Capt. Mitsuo Fuchida, the leader of the attack against Pearl Harbor. Fuchida said that when your people sank the *Kaga*, they avenged your gunboat *Panay* also, as it was dive bombers from *Kaga*, temporarily ashore in China, that committed that deed.

The Japanese lost about 250 planes when their carriers sank. It is estimated that 100 pilots were lost and presumably most took part in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Also, the carriers lost at least 1,500 from their crews.

Midway secured the Central Pacific



Japanese plane on fire tries to crash Enterprise. Bomb explosion alongside shook ship violently. Sky control is seen in the foreground where author is directing A.A. fire.

ic from further attacks. The Japanese had planned after the Midway occupation to seek out and defeat our fleet, then occupy Oahu and the Hawaiian Islands. From there, they would menace the West Coast and the Panama Canal. These plans never came to fruition.

Midway was a victory solely for carrier aviation. It was a carrier-to-carrier duel. No other forces had any effect on the outcome of the battle.

Of the carriers that had attacked Pearl Harbor, only Shokaku and Zuikaku remained. The Enterprise was to meet them twice in the South Pacific, once in the Battle of the Eastern Solomons on Aug. 24, 1942, and again in the Battle of Santa Cruz on Oct. 26, 1942. Unlike at Midway, and through no fault of their own, our aviators did not sink or even damage these two ships in the South Pacific. On Aug. 24, two Enterprise scouts did plant two close near misses on Shokaku.

It was anti-aircraft fire from the Enterprise in the South Pacific, with some help from our fighters, that destroyed the planes and pilots from these two carriers. In doing so, perhaps the last of the Pearl Harbor attackers were accounted for. The carriers themselves were to be sunk by our forces later in the war and were never again effective.

The Plan of the Day and War Information Bulletin of the Enterprise of Aug. 26, 1942, in my posses-

sion, shows that our fighters shot down nine dive bombers, nine torpedo planes and some fighters. Thirty-six dive bombers actually attacked the ship. Of these, Enterprise anti-aircraft gunners shot down 15 within visual range, and the screen shot down eight. Many other Japanese planes did not make it back to the ship. This accounted for the entire air group of the Shokaku, and that ship headed for Japan for replacements.

At Santa Cruz on Oct. 26, 1942, our fighters shot down nine torpedo planes. The Plan of the Day for Oct. 28 says that the Enterprise was actually attacked by 84 enemy planes, 69 of them dive bombers and 15 torpedo planes. Of these, Enterprise anti-aircraft gunners shot down 30 and the screen ten. All their planes received some damage, and few made it back to their carriers. This accounted for at least two full air groups.

Cdr. Masatake, a Japanese air staff officer, testified after the war that "we lost some of our most experienced pilots in this action."

The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor with 353 planes. It is fair to conclude that few of the pilots of those planes survived the first year of the war.

The Enterprise went on to achieve further great feats of valor during the remainder of the war, along with many others of our Pacific Fleet. But to Enterprise alone was given the

honor of exacting the greatest toll on the actual attackers of Pearl Harbor, their ships, their crews and their pilots.

From the Battle of Santa Cruz until she left on May 1, 1943, Enterprise was the only carrier ready to fight in the South Pacific. The Japanese knew we were there, and we were a prime target. However, Fuchida said they lacked the experienced pilots to man their aircraft carriers after the Battle of Santa Cruz.

Tragically, because no American community or group would sponsor her as a historic relic, USS Enterprise (CV6) was scrapped in 1958. But her great fighting spirit will live on as long as two or three of her crew remain. ■



About the Author

Capt. Mott, Annapolis, Class of 1926, retired from the Navy in 1960 after a distinguished career. He served on the Enterprise from June, 1940, to October, 1943.

A T R O C I T I E S ,

— Whoom! A few seconds later, another Whoom! The floor of the big building in which we established temporary quarters in Malmedy vibrated. We ran out onto the balcony. A few blocks off to the right, plumes of black smoke rose into the cold morning air. It had to be where the marketplace was and the small hospital used by the Americans. Then all returned to silence. Dawn was just breaking in the direction of the German border to the east.

It was Dec. 16, 1944. Forty-three years ago is a long time back. Memories tend to fade, but this was a period of many shocks and aftershocks. It is hard to forget the Battle of the Bulge, impossible to forget tumbles of bodies lying grotesquely in the snow reddened with blood.

Behind this perfunctory title, "Atrocities, Malmedy: Case 6-24," lies an unforgettable event. Smaller than Bataan, but for those of us who were there, just as bloody and traumatic.

Joe Thiele, Armand Demers and I were three intelligence operatives holed up in the governor's mansion in Malmedy on the eastern edge of Belgium. A few miles to the east, sprinkled through the forests along the German-Belgian border, some Americans were fighting; others were acclimating themselves to their first days in the front lines. Disturbing reports of unusual movements up and down the front on the German side were coming in.

The skies were socked in solidly. Our usually busy aerial patrols stayed snugly in their rearward positions. Yet the signals from the German side were unmistakable: the front that had been quiet for the past month was the source of much radio activity and periodic reports from our "doppelganger," the two-way counter-intelligence contacts, that countless German trucks and armor were moving about. We sent back reports to our V Corps people.

But Doubting Thomas was in charge, and the skies seemed to collaborate with the Germans.

When all remained quiet for a spell, two of us left our mansion and walked the few blocks to the town square. The hospital, now evacuated, showed damage from at least one hit. Other buildings that had stood for a century or two lay in ruins. We toured the hospital to assess the damage and found a couple of U.S. Coast Guard foul-weather outfits which we took along, a providential move as it turned out later.

Back at our headquarters, we held our own war council. The decision was to bury our files, IDs and dog tags, wear unmarked clothes and bring our two Polish domestic helpers to the supposed safety of Stavelot, a smaller town about five miles west. Within an hour, we were on the road, clogged with Belgian refugees. It took us nearly an hour to reach Stavelot and find an abandoned farmhouse on the edge of town. Here we left our charges and our duffelbags filled with as much food as we could spare. Relieved, we turned around and snaked our way back.

By mid-morning, back in Malmedy, we did not know what to expect. Distinct and disturbing rumbles in the distance were the only indicators of unusual activity.

Night fell early. The air crackled from ice falling from trees and distant concussions. Suddenly out of the dark, a lightless jeep roared into view and slammed to a stop in front of the half-track parked in front of our building. A mounted 50-caliber machine gun, jarred into life by the sudden stop, spit out a round. A soldier next to me cried out and clutched his bleeding hand to his chest. The errant bullet had penetrated clean through his palm.

In the jeep sat three GIs. One's

jacket was covered with blood oozing from his chest. The others appeared to be whole, though covered with grime. Soldiers of our guard platoon helped the arrivals out of the vehicle. The wounded soldier was carried on a stretcher to another house for aid.

And that is how we found out. More than a hundred American soldiers had been taken prisoner, lined up in a snowy field and killed. A few had survived. These three were the first ones to make their escape from the murder scene a mile down the road. It was impossible to realize the immensity of the atrocity of which we had heard only the barest details. It took days and weeks before we knew most of the facts. But one thing was clear: American soldiers had been captured. They were unarmed and then murdered. The murderers-in-uniform were from the Nazi SS.

Within 48 hours, the news had spread along the entire front. It spelled the end of warfare à la Geneva Convention. It was the beginning of a killing spree on both sides. Once the Malmedy Massacre became common knowledge, few SS prisoners were taken alive or left alive very long, and the spirit of even the greenest GI became that of a desperate she-wolf.

That night the three of us took turns listening to the BBC, the sole reliable source of general information from the fronts. Reliable? We thought so, until, at about 3 a.m., the BBC announcer declared in ominous tones: "Malmedy has fallen to the enemy."

I jumped up and covered the distance to our balcony in a split second. All was quiet out there. The half-track was still in front of our door, and GIs were walking up and down, rifles at the ready, peering out into the dark. My next spring was into the bedroom to wake up

M A L M E D Y :

CASE
6-24

By Gustav Berle

my two fellow agents. I related the radio news to them, and we ran downstairs to find out what was going on.

All was quiet on the front. Malmedy had evidently not fallen. The Nazi panzers had not penetrated our meager defenses. Perhaps they were misled by other reports; perhaps they ran out of gas. It would be several days before we were able to get all the news, and then only in fragments, to be pieced together like a jigsaw puzzle. Here is what happened.

RUSTY MANN

It was shortly after noon on Dec. 17, 1944. The weather was lousy, gray and shot through with snowy squalls. Pfc. Homer Ford was the sole American at the crossroads south of Malmedy, directing traffic at Baugnez Corner. The last scheduled convoy had just passed when the lead truck of Battery B, 285th Field

Artillery Observation Battalion, heaved into view. It was an unscheduled appearance, but few troop movements on that day were orderly. Attached to the battery were stragglers, such as a couple of ambulances.

Unbeknownst to any of them, just over the nearest rise, the lead vehicles and tanks of Kampfgruppe Peiper made their appearance. Tiger Tank 731 was the point vehicle, driven by SS Cpl. Gerhard Schaeffer, flanked by radioman SS Pvt. Heinz Arnhold and gunner SS Pvt. Georg Fleps. They were on a collision course with the

unwary American convoy.

There were no preliminaries. One moment the two units were a kilometer apart; the next moment they were engaged. The first shot was from a German 88, and it blew the wheels off the American lead vehicle. Lt. Virgil Lary and an observer captain who had joined the trek that morning tumbled out and hit the ditch. The 150 men of the U.S. convoy did not have a chance. The huge Tigers moved down the road, machine guns blazing and knocking off American soldiers like flies, including

barked some orders. Within minutes, all remaining Americans were assembled in a snowy field off the intersection and lined up in several rows, all with hands up in the cold air.

Then Tank 731 moved into position parallel to the bunched up prisoners. Two shots rang out. Two Americans in the first row fell dead. The shots came from Fleps. In an instant, as if the two shots had been a signal, heavy machine guns on two tanks started chattering. The guns traversed from right to left and back

again. Screams were drowned out as GIs tumbled over each other, writhing in pain. Blood reddened the snow over much of the field. Bullets broke bones and spattered bits of flesh. After all this massacre, one man was still standing. Fleps went over to him and shot him twice.

One soldier raised his head from the ground and was heard saying, "By God, I am still alive." He should have kept quiet. An SS panzer pioneer leaped at him, pressed his Mauser rifle

into his temple and fired

a shot that spattered the GI's brains. A medical aidman, himself wounded, raised himself on one knee and helped bandage another soldier. A German walked over to him and nodded, saying, "Das ist sehr nett. Gut geschafft." And as he said, "That's very good. Good job," he lifted his rifle and shot both the wounded soldier and the medical aidman.

A few Americans survived by feigning death. Despite repeated volleys of shots, some GIs, wounded four and five times, were able to play possum. Hours passed. Finally one



those who had ducked into a roadside drainage ditch. In ten minutes it was all over. The GIs who surrendered were those who were left and able to hobble out of the ditch or out of wreckage. One German SS man laughed and shouted, in good English, "First Panzer SS welcomes you to Belgium!"

By this time the 9th Panzer Pioneers had caught up with the lead elements, and the Tigers turned the remaining GIs over to the mop-up troops. A German major, Josef Diefenthal, the battalion commander,

of the half-dead whispered, "Is anyone alive?" Several answered. And so those still alive and able to move made their way out of the pile of dead and dashed toward a barn. Some entered the barn to hide themselves there, but they were spotted by SS guards left behind.

They surrounded the barn and set it afire. A few of the Americans staggered out and were mowed down. Some remained in hiding elsewhere and survived. Later they inched their way from the Baugnez junction and headed west. Among them were Pvt. James Mattera and Lt. Lary. Some Belgian farmers found them and brought them into Malmedy for treatment. Sgt. Kenneth Ahrens and two other badly wounded men were able to flag down a startled American jeep driver and were brought into Malmedy. Pfc. Homer Ford and a small group of survivors had similar good fortune, as did Pvt. Theodore Paluch and three other wounded men. T/5 Warren Schmitt, who had hidden himself in an icy stream, was found by an American night patrol, more dead than alive.

By some unexplainable series of miracles, 43 Americans survived the SS massacre near Malmedy, but about 100 did not.

Malmedy-Baugnez was not the sole atrocity uncovered during the infamous Battle of the Bulge. At the town of Stavelot where we had hidden and, we thought, safeguarded our two Polish helpers and all of our holiday rations and souvenirs, eight GIs were summarily executed by the invading SS. Worse, 93 Belgian civilians were killed, including infants whose heads had been bashed in, and young girls, some of whose remains were not found till weeks later after the snow melted. All in all, the known Nazi scoreboard of horrors in this small segment of the Western front, between Dec. 17 and 31, totalled more than 400 American prisoners and 111 Belgian civilians killed in 11 small towns.

Once these atrocities became known, once the GIs knew that more than 400 of their comrades had

been murdered in cold blood, there was no stopping them. For a number of days, few SS prisoners were taken. The tide of the last Nazi convulsion turned into a rout. By Dec. 25, the skies had cleared, and the American eagles rushed through. The lines were often confused, and sometimes Americans were killed by American bombs. Some fell on Malmedy.

Retribution took longer. Lt. Col. Joachim Peiper was discovered by an inquisitive "Stars and Stripes" reporter — in the prisoner-of-war cage at Nuremberg, eight months



Frozen bodies of American soldiers shot by Germans after their surrender during enemy counter attack, near Malmedy, Belgium.

after the Malmedy Massacre. Other suspects were found in other parts of Germany and Austria, even in France, England and in the U.S. By the end of September, 1945, almost 1,000 SS men were held in the enclosure at Ludwigsburg, Germany. Perhaps this was a mistake the naive Americans did not anticipate. Together, the SS prisoners were a disciplined mass. All at once every atrocity had a victim, a higher SS officer who gave the orders. The problem was that every SS officer who received the blame was killed.

The weeding-out process took several more weeks. Nearly 400 prisoners were finally sorted out and placed in individual cells elsewhere. Their status changed from prisoners-of-war to war crimes suspects. Only one prisoner escaped — to the Russian Zone. He was later captured by the Russians and identified. There was no need to return him.

A trial lasting two months was held, appropriately at the former

Dachau concentration camp. By July 16, 1946, the verdicts were announced. Forty-three were to suffer death by hanging, and 30 received 10 years to life. Peiper got the noose. The commander of the 6th Panzer Army, SS Oberstgruppenfuehrer Josef (Sepp) Dietrich got life; his chief of staff, SS Brigadefuehrer Fritz Kraemer, 10 years, and the commander of the 1st SS Panzer Corps, SS Gruppenfuehrer Hermann Priess, 20 years.

By January, 1957, however, after numerous appeals, the score of American jurisprudence was altered considerably. By that date, not a single SS war criminal in the Dachau group had been hanged. None were imprisoned. Dietrich was paroled and Peiper freed after serving 11 years. It was a sop to the German "allies" whose role in opposing the Communists was deemed more important than punishments for the atrocities committed during the Battle of the Bulge. As far as was known, only the one SS man, the one who escaped to the Soviet Zone and was captured by the Russians, received his just due. Peiper's Alsatian home was firebombed by a group calling itself "The Avengers" in 1976, and he was killed.

As Henry Thoreau observed in his timeless classic "Walden," "Things do not change; we change."

Today you will find at the Baugnez crossroads, a few minutes' drive from the tranquil town of Malmedy, a curved stone wall. On it, 86 slate plaques are mounted. Each plate contains the name of one American who died here, murdered by the Nazi SS. The monument was erected by a group of sentimental Belgians. It is the only monument erected anywhere to the men known in the Pentagon's files as Case 6-24. ■

About the author:

Gustav Berle, communications director of the Service Corps of Retired Executives, was a special agent with the 970th Counter Intelligence Corps at the time of the Battle of the Bulge and was discharged as a first lieutenant at war's end.

Handicap no Barrier to Golfing

When Otto Gollon last year became Commander of the Department of New Jersey for 1986-87, he thought only half-seriously about building a miniature golf course for wheelchair-bound veterans at the Vineland (N.J.) Memorial Veterans Home.

But the idea, which he adopted as his project for his leadership year, took off and finally has come to fruition with its dedication.

Gollon worked out the design for the course so that the nine holes on greens built with plywood and covered with astroturf spell out VFW, AUX and MOC. The Vineland home was chosen because some 200 of its 300 residents are confined to wheelchairs.

Gollon says it is the only one of its kind at least on the East Coast. Among its features are special flag cups to enable the wheelchair golfer to retrieve his own ball. A golf pro has designed a Z-shaped club that will allow a wheelchair golfer to make the same stroke as a regular player.

The Department, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Cooties and the Cootie Auxiliary raised \$16,000 to design and build the course and \$40,000 for a van with a hydraulic lift for wheelchair patients.

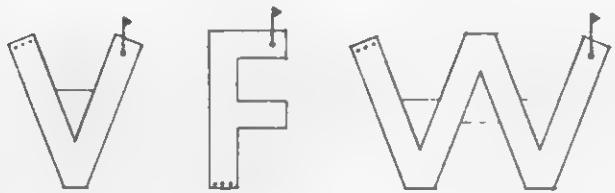
Invited to attend the dedication, Bob Hope sent regrets. "The wheelchair van is important, but the wheelchair golf course is sheer genius," he wrote. "The idea may catch on, and if I thought it would improve my game, I'd turn in my golf cart."



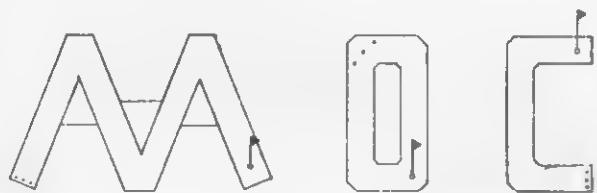
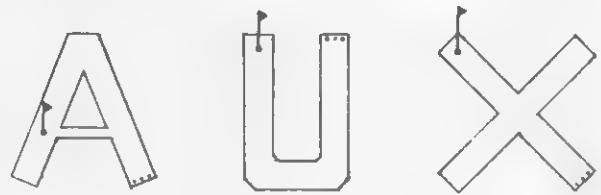
Past Commander Otto Gollon, of the New Jersey Department, and Past President Edythe Savacool, of the Ladies Auxiliary, cut the ribbon at the miniature golf course for wheelchair residents of the New Jersey Memorial Veterans Home



The New Jersey Department Color Guard from Post 1616 adds solemnity to the event.



10' AISLES



This is a diagram of the course. It is 100 by 100 feet, and the fairways are 10-feet wide.

Norman Brown, a home resident, gives it a try.



This plaque tells it all.



Home's Joseph Gagno receives the van from Gollon.



Mei Bowden prepares to take his turn.

Hawaii Plans New HQ

In its continuing efforts to serve both veterans and the community at large, the Department of Hawaii recently announced plans for construction of a new headquarters and community resource center.

The two-story building, a memorial to all Hawaii veterans, will be located on the site of the present building in Honolulu at the gateway to Waikiki.

An auditorium seating 300, a kitchen refreshment area, restrooms and two lanais will be located on the top level.

The first level will open onto the Ala Wai Canal and an adjacent park and picnic area. It will feature a restaurant, lounge, reception area and patio.

The ground level will house offices for both the VFW and Auxiliary. Parking will be available for more than 65 vehicles.

The VFW in Hawaii has developed a solid record of attainment in spearheading community programming to benefit young persons and senior citizens.

Hundreds of thousands have benefited from VFW programs since 1919, when Post 94 was first formed in Honolulu. Currently more than 50 programs are sponsored in partnership with the communities.

The new facility will enable expansion of programs and services and increase membership.

Presently more than 3,000 belong to the 25 Posts and Auxiliaries which make up the Department of Hawaii.

Some 125,000 veterans are included among the state's population of 980,000. This means that one of every eight Hawaii residents or 12.8% served their country through some form of military service.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for late 1988, with construction expected to be completed 12 months later.

A special \$10 pin authorized to commemorate the new memorial building is available to all comrades who assist in the development of this building. Postage and handling is 50 cents. Pins may be obtained from VFW, Department of Hawaii, Fund Campaign, 1812 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii 96815.

Vets' Home for Florida

The Department of Florida is planning a home for homeless and elderly veterans in Ft. McCoy that is expected to be the only one of its kind in the United States.

Initiated by Adjutant Quartermaster Cecil F. Branford, a Past Department Commander, the home's concept envisages it as caring for veterans who are Florida residents and have been VFW members for at least five years.

The veteran's cost at the home will depend on his or her circumstances. No charge will be made for destitute veterans, but pensioners and Social Security recipients will be handled on a scale basis.

The Department of Florida has purchased 40 acres near Ft. McCoy for the project.

A campaign to raise \$750,000 for the project is being conducted.

As planned, the home will consist of 60 double-bed rooms, a recreation hall, dining room, a vocational training room and two greenhouses, Branford says.

Solely a Department of Florida project, it is supported by Florida's 250 Posts, Branford says, and it will receive no funds from the state or federal governments.

Interested persons may obtain more information on the project by writing Branford at the Department Headquarters, 543 N.E. Sanchez Ave., Ocala, Fla. 32670.

Post Member Praised

Sen. Thomas A. Daschle (S.D.) has passed along a clipping from the Freeman, S.D., Courier containing a letter to Commander Maurice Kaufman, of Post 3728, Freeman, praising Post member Ralph Gross for the fifth consecutive year of representing Post 3728 at wreathlaying ceremonies at an American military cemetery in Europe on Memorial Day.

In his letter, Alfred E. Simmons, of Post 569, Fulton, N.Y., said that this year they visited the Normandy American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach, which was one of the two places where American troops landed on D-Day, June 6, 1944, in the Allied

invasion of France.

"Walking through this last resting place for the American war dead from the D-Day landings is a memory to be cherished . . . Once again, I congratulate you on having the services of a dedicated Life Member and proven patriot, Ralph Gross, in your Post."

The 173-acre site contains the graves of 9,386 American military dead and the names of 1,557 missing-in-action.

Donate Microwave

Post 3553 and its Ladies Auxiliary, Chester, Ill., have donated a microwave oven to the Marion, Ill., VA Medical Center. Joining in the presentation to Bob Thomas, recreation director, were Commander Oscar Sprengel, Auxiliary President Marilyn Fedderke and VAVS Representative Marjorie Kesler.



Three members of the same family became charter members of Post 5127, Filthian, Ill., on the same day when Dorothy and Robert Buchanan, flanked by son Terry, joined the VFW. With them is James Fiedler, assistant director of Post Development. Anyone who may have known the Buchanans in the service may write them at PO Box 181, Filthian, Ill. 61844.

Post Helps Young Girl

A victim of Apert's Syndrome since birth, Amy Grugan, 15, has been aided by Post 1702, Braintree, Mass., with the acquisition of a computer in order that she may learn the skills of computer operation and complete her high school assignments. Obtaining the computer for her was taken up as a Post activity, and Clare

Rone, a Post member, was able to get one from her company that was updating its equipment. When Amy graduates, the computer will be available for another handicapped student.



When the 45th anniversary of the Invasion of Guadalcanal rolled around, it marked the first combat experience for Gaines D. Calloway, a Life Member of Post 4777, Idabel, Okla. He writes that the ship on which he was serving received a direct hit that killed 27 of his shipmates. Among the memories he recalls is that of meeting Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Gen. Douglas MacArthur while serving aboard Adm. William Halsey's landing craft on New Caledonia. Calloway spent ten years in the Navy and 21 in the merchant marine, taking part in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.



At a reunion of the 34th Division two years ago, Charles A. Smith, a member of Post 1000 in Independence, Mo., proposed erection of a monument to the unit's WWII dead. In September, the memorial was dedicated at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Pictured with Smith before the monument is Ben Butler, his former company commander, who spoke at the dedication ceremonies. During WWII the division fought in one North African campaign and five in Italy, sustaining 2,866 dead and 11,545 wounded.

Father, Son Post Commanders

Recently Theodore W. Cook, a WWII POW, was elected Commander of Post 1037, Waupaca, Wis., and his son, William P. Cook, a Vietnam veteran, was elected Commander of Post 9375, California City, Calif. The elder Cook's wife, Leta, is Past President of the Ladies Auxiliary, and the son's wife, is President of the Ladies Auxiliary.

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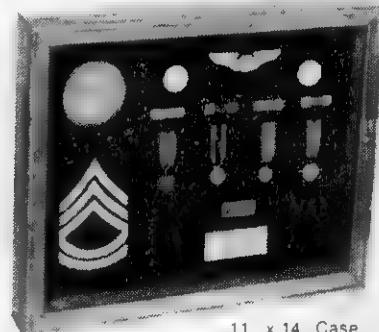
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M E M B E R S H I P

October Commanders-of-the-Month

Department



DIV. I
California
Joseph I. Romano (2)



DIV. II
Minnesota
Dean Morris



DIV. III
Wisconsin
George Pfleisticker (2)



DIV. IV
Maryland
Carl N. Thomas (2)



DIV. V
Iowa
W.P. Shannon (2)



DIV. VI
Louisiana
R.V. Martin (2)



DIV. VII
Arizona
Allen F. Kent (2)



DIV. VIII
Maine
Peter F. Miesburger (2)



DIV. IX
Vermont
Robert Moulster



DIV. X
Nevada
Edna Ward



DIV. XI
District of Columbia
Austin J. Smith, Jr. (2)

Post

DIV. I
Post 1114
Indiana
Lenas G. Weishelt (2)

DIV. III
Post 6694
Maryland
Robert P. Bossie

DIV. V
Post 2947
Ohio
Craig Swartz

DIV. VII
Post 802
Indiana
Ralph Gearhart (2)

DIV. IX
Post 4780
Tennessee
Tony Darnell (2)

DIV. XI
Post 5032
Georgia
J. E. Land (2)

DIV. XIII
Post 7054
Kentucky
Randolph Barron

DIV. XV
Post 8206
Maryland
Ronald L. Hamm (2)

DIV. XVII
Post 10385
Arizona
John T. Mugridge (2)

DIV. XIX
Post 10407
Wisconsin
Orland Recker

County Council

DIV. I
Lancaster County Council
Pennsylvania
William K. Risser (2)

DIV. III
Monroe County Council
Michigan
Malvilia Taburek

DIV. II
Post 6506
Maryland
Lester A. Rule (2)

DIV. IV
Post 673
Indiana
Elmer Hurst

DIV. VI
Post 3388
Iowa
Joseph Stell (2)

DIV. VIII
Post 5394
California
Robert Finkenau

DIV. X
Post 1491
Minnesota
Donald Miller (2)

DIV. XII
Post 1539
Minnesota
Robert W. Johnson (2)

DIV. XIV
Post 3458
Ohio
Homer Campbell

DIV. XVI
Post 6337
Missouri
David F. Murphy

DIV. XVIII
Post 6291
Kentucky
Roger Emmert

DIV. XX
Post 6141
Oklahoma
Frank Koehn, Jr. (2)

(Number in parentheses indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

District

DIV. I District 7 Minnesota Dick Jeppesen (2)	DIV. II District 6 Minnesota Harlen Guse (2)	DIV. III District 14 Maryland Gene L. Stewart (2)	DIV. IV District 6 Kansas A. Lynn Hall (2)	DIV. V District 11 Michigan Donald Jensen (2)	DIV. VI District 1 Maryland Jerry M. Williams (2)
DIV. VII District 10 Iowa Melbourne Hill	DIV. VIII District 4 Maryland Norris Alexander	DIV. IX District 10 Georgia Fred Bollenberg	DIV. X District 11 Missouri James H. Navies (2)	DIV. XI District 6 Arizona John Knewles	DIV. XII District 13 Maryland Charles J. Beck

Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Recorded as of November 9, 1987

Post Place No.	Location	1987-88 Membership	Post Place No.	Location	1987-88 Membership	Post Place No.	Location	1987-88 Membership	Post Place No.	Location	1987-88 Membership
1 1114 Evansville, IN	3528	19 367	1318	37 6694	Dundalk, MD	1166	55 1865	Kenosha, WI	1073		
2 6506 Rosedale, MD	2014	20 1989	1286	38 6975	Bristol, VA	1160	56 1432	Salina, KS	1070		
3 628 Sioux Falls SD	1926	21 2539	1272	39 6796	Dallas, TX	1157	57 2940	W Seneca, NY	1067		
4 5555 Richfield, MN	1911	22 249	1266	40 2100	Everett, WA	1152	58 305	Eau Claire, WI	1063		
5 360 Mishawaka, IN	1865	23 1275	1256	40 2503	Omaha, NE	1152	59 3790	Logansport, IN	1061		
6 1146 St. Clair Shores, MI	1758	24 1650	1247	42 3382	Kingsport, TN	1151	59 283	Kingston, PA	1061		
7 3579 Park Ridge, IL	1709	24 1064	1247	43 2529	Sandusky, OH	1147	61 7987	New Prt. Rchly, FL	1058		
8 1308 Alton, IL	1687	25 549	1244	44 6874	Lemon Grove, CA	1146	62 295	S. St. Paul, MN	1053		
9 47 Uniontown, PA	1658	27 379	1240	45 1810	Brentwood, PA	1139	63 641	Columbia, SC	1049		
10 1296 Bloomington, MN	1523	28 6704	1238	46 447	Albert Lea, MN	1135	64 1000	Independence, MO	1036		
11 131 Lincoln, NE	1510	29 2704	1228	47 4087	Davison, MI	1127	65 9400	Sunnystlope, AZ	1035		
12 49 Mobile, AL	1491	30 1	1227	48 1736	Alexandria, LA	1128	66 733	Mason City, IA	1029		
13 1273 Rapid City, SD	1428	31 6251	1210	49 8541	San Antonio, TX	1122	67 5263	Fort Sill, OK	1027		
14 2290 Manville, NJ	1417	32 5632	1209	50 6240	Russell, KS	1115	68 4051	Colorado Spg., CO	1023		
15 1599 Chambersburg, PA	1381	33 9619	1196	50 112	Wichita, KS	1115	69 9083	Baltimore, MD	1019		
16 969 Tacoma, WA	1351	34 6640	1193	52 2199	Joliet, IL	1114	70 639	Malden, MA	1012		
17 401 Albuquerque, NM	1331	35 1621	1183	53 428	Saint Cloud, MN	1103	71 3851	Carmi, IL	1003		
18 1079 Elyria, OH	1330	36 7330	1173	54 10209	Spring Hill, FL	1087	72 1857	Oklahoma City, OK	1001		

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through Oct. 31, 1987

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 68.04%

1 MARYLAND	77.78	15 Massachusetts	70.57	29 Virginia	68.36	43 North Carolina	63.90
2 Wisconsin	75.84	16 Vermont	70.30	30 New Jersey	67.96	44 Oregon	63.80
3 Minnesota	74.27	17 Nevada	70.11	31 Montana	67.71	45 Delaware	63.59
4 Michigan	73.75	18 Rhode Island	70.08	32 North Dakota	67.55	46 Arkansas	63.47
5 Kansas	72.78	19 Nebraska	70.05	33 Missouri	66.72	47 Texas	62.77
6 Iowa	72.51	20 Wyoming	69.91	34 Alaska	66.69	48 Kentucky	62.57
7 Indiana	72.04	21 Connecticut	69.85	35 Florida	66.38	49 Alabama	62.09
8 Maine	71.84	22 New York	69.67	36 Pacific Areas	66.30	50 Utah	61.84
9 District of Columbia	71.73	23 Arizona	69.22	37 New Mexico	65.68	51 Tennessee	61.10
10 California	71.18	24 Washington	68.87	38 Idaho	65.45	52 South Carolina	58.10
11 Hawaii	71.04	25 Panama Canal	68.78	39 Pennsylvania	64.76	53 Mississippi	53.06
12 Illinois	71.01	26 Colorado	68.57	40 West Virginia	64.58	54 Europe	50.64
13 Louisiana	70.90	27 South Dakota	68.48	41 Oklahoma	64.43		
14 Ohio	70.89	28 New Hampshire	68.47	42 Georgia	64.14		

Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class

1986-87

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by qualifying for the National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class award

Darrell Sparks, Post 1694, Shelton, Wash., and Lindsey F. Johnston, Post 3777, Festus, Mo.

1987-88

Donn C. Miller, Post 2085, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.; Earl Stiner, Jr., Post 3421, Omaha, Neb., and John Sullivan, Post 9274, Falls Church, Va.



Diligence Succeeds

When Lee C. Jones retired from active military service in July, 1972, he immediately filed a claim to the Veterans Administration requesting service connection for a breathing disorder known as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

He based his claim on a series of respiratory problems which he had experienced in service and for which he had received treatment.

Although Jones's service discharge examination report did contain findings somewhat favorable to his service-connected claim and even though a chest X-ray approximately four months after service revealed probable pulmonary pathology, the Reno, Nev., VA Regional Office ruled against the claim. His additional attempts in 1981 and 1983 to obtain service connection also ended in frustration.

Fortunately for Jones, Donald Mitchell, Nevada VFW Department service

officer, stepped into the picture in 1985. After reviewing Jones's medical records, he concluded that the Reno VA office may have erred in its previous decisions denying service connection for the pulmonary disorder.

Since the appeal periods assigned to the former VA decisions had expired, Mitchell decided to request an administrative review from the VA Compensation and Pension Service in Washington, D.C. With the help of the VFW National Veterans Service, the case was brought to Washington where it was reviewed and presented by Robert C. Macomber, VFW legal consultant.

In March, 1986, Mitchell received an encouraging call from the VFW Washington Office. He was told that the case had been given favorable consideration. Mitchell relayed the good news to Jones who, needless to say, was greatly relieved. As fate would

have it though, the veteran did not live to receive his first compensation payment. He died on April 16, 1986, of complications arising from his service-connected pulmonary condition.

Mitchell turned his attention to the plight of Mary Jones, the veteran's widow. Through diligence, he was able to obtain substantial accrued benefits for her as well as dependency and indemnity compensation that assured her of a monthly income for the remainder of her life or until marriage.

In spite of the grief over the loss of her husband, Mrs. Jones found time to write Mitchell to convey her heartfelt thanks for all the support and assistance that he and the VFW had provided. She added that the monetary benefits derived from the successful prosecution of the claim meant the difference between bare subsistence and a decent life. ■

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GENERAL ORDERS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

1987-88 Series General Orders No. 2

1 The following appointments are hereby announced.
 NATIONAL BY LAWS STUDY COMMITTEE Chairman Lawrence M Maher, Post 4050, N Kansas City Mo, Vice Chairmen Louis G Feldmann, Post 589, Hazleton, Pa., Glen M Gardner, Post 3369, Garland, Texas, Arthur Morin, Post 2692, Mount Holly, N.J., Thomas Poulot, Post 1116, Helena, Mont.; Vernon A Soukup, Post 8081, Warrenville, Ill., and John J Stang Post 3147, LaCrosse, Kans. NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF Mizell Wise, Post 6118, Florala, Ala., Quinn A Weiss Post 1780, Mesa, Ariz.; Allen P Richardson, Post 2601, Longmont, Colo., Roy L Harrell, Post 5978, Nashville, Ga., Edward K Kaopuiki, Post 1540, Honolulu, Hawaii; Timothy Gilmore, Post 2146, Idaho Falls, Idaho; William Bassett, Post 2024, Chicago, Ill., Edward O'Malley, Post 1578, Woodridge, Ill., James Lynch, Post 4829, Shelbyville, Ill., James R Hood, Post 1592, Charleston, Ill., Gene Knox, Post 4117, Waukon, Iowa, Chester Patrick, Sr., Post 6640, Metairie, La.; Paul Colburn, Post 1781, Bangor, Maine; Frank Tomasek, Post 2704, S Omaha, Neb.; Roland C. Parrish, Post 2503, Omaha, Neb.; William R Marks, Post 3280, Clovis, N.M., James Foltz, Post 4217, Warm Springs, Ore., and Lee O Miller, Post 9460, Tokyo, Japan ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL: Jerry W Willett, Post 924, Anniston, Ala.; John Ryerson, Post 9541, Yuma, Ariz.; Wallace Losee, Post 4171, Golden, Colo.; Jim E. Adams Post 2786, Albany, Ga.; Joseph E Twombly, Post 4951, Honolulu, Hawaii; Henry Vanderhoef, Post 10444,

House, Idaho, Leo J Voitik, Post 367, Joliet, Ill.; Muriel E Allan, Post 3633, Maquoketa, Iowa; Jack Parisi, Post 9389, Caribou, Maine; Walter A Crawford, Post 7886, Alamogordo, N.M., Robert Benson, Post 1383, Klamath Falls, Ore., and Raymond E Steele, Post 9957, Taipei, Taiwan NATIONAL AIDES DE CAMP, MEDAL OF HONOR CLASS: Drew Dix, Post 9785, Eagle River, Alaska Silvestre S Herrera, Post 720, Phoenix, Ariz.; Nick D Bacon, Post 2135, Peoria, Ariz.; Frederick E Ferguson, Post 7401, Chandler, Ariz.; James R Hendrix, Post 8464, Lepanto, Ark.; James A Taylor, Post 7265, Livermore, Calif.; Carlton W Barrett, Member-at-Large, Calif.; William J Crawford, Post 4051, Colorado Springs, Colo.; William J Johnston, Post 6990, Colchester, Conn.; Harvey C Barnum, Jr., Post 10052, Cheshire, Conn.; John L Levitt, Post 9929, W Hartford, Conn.; James P Connor, Post 2863, Richardson Park, Del.; R Mike Clausen, Jr., Post 4833, Milton, Fla.; William R Charette, Post 2420, Lake Wales, Fla.; Col. George E Day, Post 7674, Ft Walton Beach, Fla.; Ronald E Ray, Post 4945, Auburndale, Fla.; Bernard R Fisher, Post 10444, Boise, Idaho; Clyde L Choate, Post 3465, Anna, Ill.; Russell Dunham, Post 1308, Alton, Ill.; Robert H Dunlap, Post 2301, Monmouth, Ill.; Harold A Garman, Post 8222, Albion, Ill.; Sammy L Davis, Post 2244, Lawrenceville, Ill.; Allen J. Lynch, Post 4308, Lake Villa, Ill.; Carl H Dodd, Post 3167, Williamsburg, Ky.; Edward C Dahlgren, Post 2599, Presque Isle, Maine; Charles A Mac Gillivray, Post 6536, S Boston Mass.; Matt L Urban, Post 2144, Holland, Mich.; Donald E Rudolph, Post 159, Minneapolis, Minn.; Mike Colalillo, Post 6320, Duluth, Minn.; Richard K Sorenson, Post 3877, St Paul, Minn.; Brian M Thacker, Member-at-Large, Mo.; Francis X Burke, Post 132, Jersey City, N.J.; Stephen R Gregg, Post 226, Bayonne, N.J.; Nicholas Oresko, Post 538, Tenafly, N.J.; Freeman V Horner, Post 599, New Egypt, N.J.; Rear

Admiral John D Bulkeley, Post 6701, Washington, N.J.; Francis S Currey, Post 8776, Albany, N.Y.; Rufus G Herring, Post 8498, Roseboro, N.C.; Rodolfo P Hernandez, Post 670, Fayetteville, N.C.; Desmond T Doss, Post 891, Asheville, N.C.; Roy P Benavidez, Post 1081, Wooster, Ohio; Ronald E Rosser and Melvin Mayfield, Post 3287, Delaware, Ohio; John R Crews, Post 9285, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Stanley T Adams, Post 7847, Halfway, Ore.; Richard A Pittman, Post 10289, Pacific Areas, David C Dolby, Post 1564, Phoenixville, Pa.; Alton Knappberger, Post 5054, Red Hill, Pa.; Walter J Marr, Post 927, Washington, Pa.; Gino J Merli, Post 6082, Peckville, Pa.; Lucian Adams, Post 8541, San Antonio, Texas; Cleto L Rodriguez, Post 9186, San Antonio, Texas; Finnis McClerry, Post 1815, San Angelo, Texas; David H McNeerney, Post 9187, Houston, Texas; James M Logan, Post 6524, Kilgore, Texas; Charles C Hagemeyer, Post 8577, Copperas Cove, Texas; Fred W Zabotosky, Post 8785, Mesquite, Texas; Lewis L Millett, Post 2012, Abilene, Texas; George E Wahlen, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah; John D Hawk, Post 3694, Bremerton, Wash.; Jessie Ray Drowley, Post 1474, Spokane, Wash.; Stanley Bender, Post 1064, Huntington, W. Va.; and Hershel W Williams, Post 7048, East Fairmont, W. Va.

2. Attention is called to the return of organization exempt income tax Form 990. An annual return on Form 990 is required of each Post exempt from tax under Section 501 (c) of the Code. If gross receipts are \$25 (XX) or less the Internal Revenue Service asks that only the heading on page 1 be complete, being sure to check Box B, and send it to the service center in your area

Gross receipts include income from all sources, including membership dues, liquor or restaurant receipts, etc. In some cases some of this may be "unrelated business income," in which case filing of Form 990-T may be required

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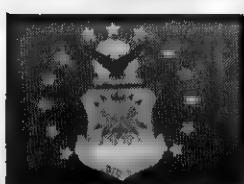
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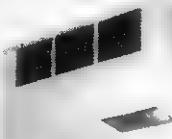
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This return must be filed on or before the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the Department's accounting period. Requests for extension of time to file may be made by submitting Form 2758, Application for Extension of Time to File.

If a Post fails to file the return on or before the due date, or the extended due date, a penalty of \$10 for each day the return is late (not to exceed \$5,000) is imposed, unless it can be shown that the failure was due to reasonable cause.

All units are alerted to reported activities of IRS District Offices in conducting unannounced investigations and/or surveillance of Posts to determine if nonmembers are being served or using VFW facilities.

3. Attention is called to the fact that the VFW National By-Laws provide for only one type of membership, that is active membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. There are no provisions in the National By-Laws nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting nonmembers to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW By-Laws or Procedure.
4. All VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of Section 708 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state, will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.

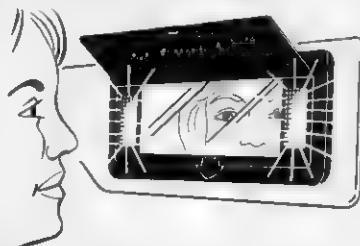
5. The attention of Post Commanders, County Council and District Commanders, and Inspecting Officers is directed to Section 703, Manual of Procedure. Bonds. Each accountable officer of this organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand or in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash.

6. All officers should obtain current copies of the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the 1988 revised edition of the Constitution, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department, National Headquarters. The 1988 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 88th National Convention which became effective on September 21, 1987.

7. All Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure, Control of Units, requires that any activity, unit or club sponsored, conducted or operated by for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and that all money, property or assets of any kind must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. All Commanders should ensure that all provisions of Section 709 are enforced.

8. The attention of Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103, Manual of Procedure which prescribes the manner in which applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstating or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting. No Post, County Council, District, Department or National Officer, or any other member, has authority to reject the application of a person who is eligible for membership.

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continued on page 44

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GENERAL ORDERS

continued from page 43

9. The attention of Post Commanders and Quartermasters is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duties of Quartermaster which provides for the Dues Reserve Fund. The Post Quartermaster is required to maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than one-half of the Post's part of the current year's dues paid by each member prior to July 1. Included therein shall be not less than one-half of the per capita tax refunded annually to Posts for Life Members, asset forth in Section 111, Manual of Procedure.

10. The attention of all units is called to Section 1101 of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which provides for the formation and control of the Ladies Auxiliary. This Section provides that each unit of the Auxiliary shall be under the control of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars but shall be permitted to function in accordance with the National Ritual, By Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Ladies Auxiliary.

In addition to provisions of Auxiliary By Laws, solicitation of funds or donations by auxiliary units including contracts with fund-raising organizations for greeting card, calendar and/or label programs shall be subject to approval and ratification by the governing body of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

11. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts. Posts 1426 and 9080 consolidated as Post 1426, Midlothian, Va., and Posts 1529 and 7588 consolidated as Post 1529, Baltimore, Md.

12. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post No. 976, Troy, Ill.; Post No. 1581, Omaha, Neb.; Post No. 1729, Overbrook, Kans.; Post No. 1824, Halstead, Kans.; Post No. 2896, Pittsville, Md.; Post No. 3457, Oakdale, Calif.; Post No. 3711, Cherokee, Okla.; Post No. 3731, Buffalo, Okla.; Post No. 3754, Moore, Okla.; Post No. 3797, Norman, Okla.; Post No. 4048, Detroit, Mich.; Post No. 4130, Wilsons, Va.; Post No. 4160, Piper City, Ill.; Post No. 4175, Blue Rapids, Kans.; Post No. 4489, Perry, Kans.; Post No. 4807, St. Michaels, Md.; Post No. 4814, Annapolis, Md.; Post No. 4872, Forest City, Iowa; Post No. 5504 Versailles, Ky.; Post No. 5550, Trenton, N.C.; Post No. 6672, Thomson, Ga.; Post No. 10014 Martin, Tenn.; Post No. 10020, Dresden, Tenn.; Post No. 10025, Seymour, Tenn., and Post No. 10026 Englewood, Tenn.

By Command of
Earl L. Stock, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief

OFFICIAL
Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

R E U N I O N S

Reunion announcements are published as a cost-free service to VFW members in good standing. To ensure timely inclusion of your announcement, all information pertaining to the event must arrive in VFW Magazine office six months prior to the reunion. Reunion announcement forms must be used and can be obtained by writing VFW Magazine, Reunions, 34th and Broadway, Kansas City MO 64111. Publication is limited to one time per calendar year.

AIR FORCE

2d Emergency Rescue Sqdn.—William E. Schuette, 1627 N. 15th St., Sheboygan WI 53081.

4th Air Depot Grp.—Sept., Middletown OH—James Purt, 1620 E. Central, Miamisburg OH 45342.

6th AAF Radio Sqdn., 140th Radio Intell. Co.—Sept., Bend OR—Maurice P. Angland, 62660 Stenkamp Rd., Bend OR 97701.

7th Ftr. Command—Sept., Dayton—Jack V. Garnett, 1701 Bramble Brae, Ft. Smith AR 72903

11th Bomb. Grp. (H) Assn.—May, St. Louis—Bob May, PO Box 637, Seffner FL 33584.

23rd Depot Repair Sqdn., 2d Air Depot Grp.—Sept., Nashville—Royce H. Aiello, 717 Monroe Ave., Racine WI 53405.



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REUNIONS

34th Air Depot Grp. (WWII)—Aug., Duluth—Mike Sullivan, 3730 Casco Ave., Wayzata MN 55391.

40th Bomb. Grp. and 28th Svc. Grp. (WWII)—Sept., Philadelphia—Tillard Oppedal, 2209 Nicklaus Dr., Mesa AZ 85206.

50th Trp. Carrier Wing HQ (WWII)—September, St. Louis—Frank Ehrman, 840 Staton Place West Drive, Indianapolis IN 46234.

88th Ftr. Sqdn., 347th Grp. (WWII)—July, Dayton OH—Collin F. Mitchell, 5029 Timberly Dr., Dayton OH 45440.

78th Ftr. Sqdn., 23rd FG, (China, WWII)—May, St. Louis—Myron D. Levy, 11933 Claychester Dr., Des Peres MO 63131.

159th Liaison Sqdn. Command—March, Savannah GA—Gerald V. Brock, RR 1, Box 209, Williams IN 47470

181st Tac. Recon. Sqdn.—May, Covington LA—Charles Reed, 622 America, Covington LA 70433.

312th/412th Sig. Co. Avn. (McColl Field 1940-1942)—Rick Mattson, 524 E. Pasadena Ave., Clewiston FL 33440.

315th Ftr. Sqdn., 324th Ftr. Grp.—May, Milwaukee—Eugene Orlando, 311 3rd St., East North Port NY 11731.

344th Svc. Sqdn.—July, Seattle—Allan Sebastian, 14312 144th Ave. SE, Renton WA 98056.

414th Bomb. Sqdn. Assn., 97th Bomb. Grp.—Aug., Cedar Rapids—Chas. Merlo, 7335 Neckel, Dearborn MI 48126.

442nd Troop Carrier Grp. (WWII)—May, St. Louis—R.A. Mullins, RR 4, Box 159, Princeton IN 47670.

475th Ftr. Grp.—May, Dallas—John Loisel, 2504 Overcreek Dr., Richardson TX 75080.

611th Military Airlift Sqn. Sqdn. (1970-Present)—July, Fort Wayne IN—Gary M. Ludban, RR 1, Pretty Lake, Wolcottville IN 46795.

781st Bomb. Sqdn., 485th Bomb. Grp.—Sept., San Antonio—Jim Althoff, 2 Mt. Vernon Lane, Atherton CA 94025.

833d Avn. Engr. Bn.—Sept., St. Joseph IL—Orval Maddock, RR 2, St. Joseph IL 61873.

1141st QM Avn. (WWII)—May, Cleveland—Thomas Philbin, 555 Graham Rd., Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221.

Air Forces Escape & Evasion Society (WWII, Korea, Vietnam)—May, Denver—David O'Boyle, 715 Locust, Denver CO 80220.

Undergraduate Navigator Training Class 72-06 (Mather AFB, Calif., 1970-71)—Michael W. Haines, 508 Cherry St., Neogaunee MI 49866.

USAF Class 55Y Hondo/Reese—July, Dayton—R.H. Barnes, 35 Golden-22A, Battle Creek MI 49015.

ALL BRANCHES

All PSY Crews—June, Jacksonville—J. Thompson, 1510 Kabel Dr., New Orleans LA 70131.

San Francisco Port of Embarkation V-Mail Sta.—June, Tulsa—Max A. Doty, 5255 S. Irvington Pl., Tulsa OK 74135.

Yangtze River Patrol Assn.—May, Seattle—Roy W. Ferguson, 145 NE Fatuma Terr., Port St. Lucie FL 34983.

ARMY

1st Engr. Combat Bn. (WWII Occupation & Vietnam)—September, Lancaster PA—Oscar Fellman, 311 Sycomore St., Weldon NC 27890.

4th Armd. Div., 10th Armd. Inf. Bn., Co. A—April, Louisville—Joe Kmetz, 718 Jane St., Plum PA 15239.

4th Armd. Sup. Bn., HQ and A Cos. (Pine Camp, NY)—Charles C. Beard, 319 Bigley Ave., Baltimore MD 21227.

7th Cav. Rgt., Hwy. Mortar Co. (Japan 1945 & Korea 1950)—Sept., Nashville—Jack L. Couch, 5144 15th Ave. So., Minneapolis MN 55417.

X Corps HQ (Korea)—J.E. Hawkins, 3F Kyoto, Windsor Towers, Cherry Hill NJ 08002.

11th Tk. Co., 702 Tk. Bn.—John Wright, 1805 Pocahontas St., Lynchburg VA 24501.

12th Armd. Div. Assn.—Aug., Kansas City MO—Paul R. Hampfling Sr., 11418 Hillcroft, Houston TX 77035.

13th Abn. Bty.—Aug., Portland—Chuck Beckman, 420 S. Ashe St., Southern Pines NC 28387.

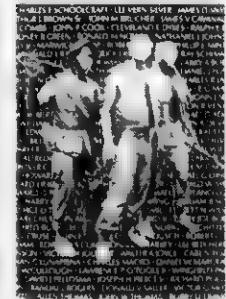
20th Armd. Div., 20th Tank Bn., Co. A—June, Clarksville TN—John Dunning, RR 2, Haubstadt IN 47639.

25th Inf. Div., 21st AAA Bn. (Korea)—June, El Paso—Raymond Snider, 8612 Parkland, El Paso TX 79925.

MARINES

1st Marines Div., 7th Marines, 3d Bn., I Co.—April, Jacksonville Beach—Bill Tracy, 14353 Courtney Woods Ln., Jacksonville FL 32224.

continued on page 46



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continued from page 45



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3d, 4th, 45th Marine Divs. & Attached Units (Two Jims)—Feb., Camp Pendleton—Jack Claven, 403 Primrose Pl., Glendora CA 91740.

5th Amphib. Corps, MP Co.—Sept., Horseshoe Bend AR—Robert E. Brewster, 802 E. Jefferson City Rd., Horseshoe Bend AR 72512.

B-1-1 (WWII)—Frank Ashbaugh, 1385 Powder Bag Rd., Hartwell GA 30643.

B-1-18 2d Marine Div. (WWII)—May, Kansas City MO—Charles Keen, Rt. 1, Box CB73H, Climax Springs MO 65324.

NAVY

1st NCB—April, Nashville—Charles Mischler, 29 Sanford Ave., Emerson NJ 07630.

60th NCB—Sept., Madison WI—Ray Krause, 424 E. Milwaukee Ave. Jefferson WI 53549.

Carrier Air Grp. TWO (USS Hornet)—June, Pensacola—Connie Masse, PO Box 7526, North Port FL 34287. **Co. 335, Trng. Ctr. (Great Lakes, Ill., June 1948)**—Joe Romanchuk, 215 W. Pine, Albion MI 49224.

NAVRADFAC/NAVCOMSEC (Bainbridge Island, 1950-51; Yokosuka 1951-52)—May, Atlanta—Thomas Eason, 1104 Cheyenne Dr., Indian Harbour Beach FL 32987.

Navy Recruit Co. 092 (1960)—May, 1990, Salina KS—Dennis L. Rumbaugh, 893 3rd St., Philipsburg KS 67661.

SACO-US Naval Grp. China—June, Des Moines—Robert G. Hill, 863 20th Ave., Norwalk IA 50211.

USS Angler (SS-240)—Aug., Milwaukee—Warren W. Sullivan, 1922 Elizabeth, Pueblo CO 81003.

USS Batson (WWII)—Kenneth Brown, PO Box 71, Fairbanks AK 99707.

USS Belle Grove (LSD-2)/USS Ashland (LSD-1)—July, Nashville—Del Catron, 14732 Vanburen St., Midway City CA 92655.

USS Benner (DD 807)—July, Annapolis MD—Jim Parsons, 2002 Generals Hwy., Annapolis MD 21401.

USS Brister (DE-327/DER-327)—John M. Mitchell, 35 Patterson Ave., Hamilton Twp., NJ 08610.

USS Callaghan (DD-792) Survivors—July, Muskegon MI—Bill Fitzgerald, 2695 McArthur St., Muskegon Heights MI 49444.

USS Chikaskia (AO-54) (1949-60)—May, Seattle—Dick Battorf, 111 Forget Me Not, Wildwood Crest NJ.

USS Conyngham (DD 371)—June, Omaha—Jack P. Dawson, 2912 Rogers Ave., Tampa FL 33611.

USS Cooper (DD 695)—Sept., Chicago—James E. Bickers, 128 Piney Bend, Portage IN 46368.

USS Delta (AK-29/AR-8)—James Elder, 13010 West Colfax Pl., Butler WI 53007.

USS Daly (DD-519)—July, Seattle—Walter A. Johnson, 161 Boxford St., South Lawrence MA 01843.

USS Dutik (DE 686)—Henry Hutler, 114 Station Dr., Forked River NJ 08731.

USS Earl K. Olsen (DE 785)—Sept., St. Louis—Len Banning, 156 Kihade Trail, Medford Lakes NJ 08055.

USS Elmore (APA 42)—Richmond—Walter Hite, 5402 Raleigh Rd., Richmond VA 23231.

USS Halley (DD-558)—May, Scottsdale AZ—Jennings Hall, 321 Stotter Rd., Pittsburgh PA 15235.

USS Hancock (CV/CVA-19) Assn.—June, New Orleans—Charles Boyst, 1801 West Bend Ct., Clemmons NC 27012.

USS Healy (DD-872)—Frederick Scior, 349 Weymouth Ln., Columbus OH 43228.

USS Hermitage (LSD-34)—Oct., Norfolk VA—C.J. Dehart, 1459 Robin Rd., Waterloo IA 50701.

USS Holder (DDE 819)—Aug., Dearborn—David J. McCoy, 425 Brentwood Dr., Inkster MI 48141.

USS John W. Thomason (DD 780)—Aug., St. Louis—Robert M. Pautler, PO Box 62, Evansville IL 62242.

USS Kanakae (AO-39)—Sept., Erie PA—Calvin Morris, 4410 Grass Valley, Houston TX 77018.

USS Lamson (DD-367)—Aug., Charleston SC—Ray Duley, Heritage Sq. L-3, Mission TX 78572.

USS LCT 875 (WWII)—Philadelphia or Greeley PA—Marvin E. Black, Box 111, Greeley PA 18425.

USS Lexington (CV-2)—April, San Diego—Walt Kastner, 466 Ivy Glen Dr., Mira Loma CA 91752.

USS LSTs 75 & 285—June, Clark NJ—William Shivers, 65 Wall St., Metuchen NJ 08840.

USS LST 268—April, Waco TX—Melvin Laughlin, 700 S. Valley Mills Dr., Apt. 116, Waco TX 76711.

USS LST 607—April, Las Vegas—Floyd Tate, 6323 Brace Rd., Loomis CA 95650.

USS LST 891 (WWII)—April, Norfolk—E.K. Jefferson, 1908 Burks St., Petersburg VA 23805.

USS LST 834—July, Cleveland—C.D. Ernest, 440 W. 7th St., Perryburg OH 45351.

USS LST 903—Laferia TX—Dutch Kretner, E. 1st St., Box 3154, Laferia TX 78559.

USS Longshaw (DD-559)—May, Davenport—Louis Reynolds, 4506 Sheridan, Davenport IA 52806.

USS Ludlow (DD-438)—Sept., Bob Javins, 537 Clark's Run Rd., La Plata MD 20646.

USS Lyon (AP-71)—Sept., Estes Park—W.E. Truitt, 1411 Cheairs Ct., Sterling CO 80751.

USS Millicoma (AO-73)—Douglas Gordon, 2404 Hillside Lane, Everett WA 98203.

USS Nemasket (AO-810)—Charles Glassmeyer, 412 Albers Rd., Bethalto IL 62201.

USS Oklahoma (BB-37)—May, Kansas City MO—M.E. Smith, 8921 N.E. Afton Rd., Kansas City MO 64155.

USS Osmond Ingram (DD-250) (AVG-9)—Chicago—Robert H. Hale, 7101 Pierce St., Arvada CO 80003.

USS Pampanito (SS-383)—Aug., Milwaukee—N.J. Arcement, 12775 Manning Trail No., Stillwater MN 55082.

USS Peto (SS-265)—Aug., Manitowoc WI—Robert McCoy, PO Box 304, Fearrissom CA 93553.

USS Pierce (APA 50)—June, Green Bay—Louis P. Leiberg, 143 S. Clay, DePere WI 54115.

USS Quincy—Sept., Charleston SC—Albert Levesque, 46 Foster St., Pawtucket RI 02861.

USS Ringness (APD 100)—James E. Holland, 949 Neck Rd., Tiverton RI 02178.

USS Rodman (DD-456/DM-521)—Sept., Hampton Beach NH—Gordon Webb, King Rd., Hampton Falls NH 03814.

USS Saratoga, 10-D Div. (1941-45)—A. Herrick, 31083 Hoover Rd., Warren MI 48093.

USS Sierra (AD 18) (WWII)—A. Fred McCleaf, 319 W. 4th St., Waynesboro PA 17288.

USS Spadefish (SS 411)—Aug., Milwaukee—W.P. Kelley, 250 Willets Ave., New London CT 06320.

USS Steinaker (DD-863)—John B. Ives, 13 Cedar Ln., Scotia NY 12302.

VP-7—Aug., Pensacola—Frank Houle, 302 Blairmore Blvd. E., Orange Park FL 32073.

VP-72 (1935-44)—May, Las Vegas—N.K. Little, 2435 Pleasant Hill Rd., Pleasant Hill CA 94523.

VPB-52—April, Williamsburg VA—Saul Frishberg, 1021 Jeffrey Dr., Southampton PA 18966.

VPS 151 (Whitney Island, So. Pac., 1944-45)—Frank P. Speck, 42 Chicago Ave., Massapequa NY 11758.

VPS-213 (WWII)—April, Jacksonville—Norman H. Maffit, 14709 Carlos Cir., Box 70, Rancho Murieta CA 95683.

VX-3, HU-1, HU-2 Helicopter & All Descendant Squadrons—April, Portsmouth VA—Sidney J. Temple, 121 W. Randall Ave., Norfolk VA 23503.

CLAIMS

Readers are urged to help these veterans seeking claim substantiation statements. Respond directly to the person listed at the end of the claim assistance request.

If you have need of assistance in preparing a claim, contact your local VFW Service officer. They are located at VA medical centers and regional offices.

6/8th Arty, Btry. C—Seeking Lt. Train, Julius B. Sullivan (Jamaica NY), Roy Shadrack (TN), Micheal Osterhouse, Micheal Blake, Richard Midel (HI) and btry. clerk John Skopols (Chicago)—James A. Harden, 530 Warden, Grand Rapids MI 49503.

Ft. Bliss, 3d Trng. Bde., 1st Bn., Co. C, 4th Ptn. (Jan.-Feb. 1967)—Seeking anyone who remembers me during basic training, especially SFC Juan M. Visbal, SSG James E. Brannen, Ronald Garner, M.A. Mitchell and C.L. Sanderson, Jr.—Alfred W. Williams, 2056 S. San Jose Dr., Tucson, AZ 85713.

3/11th Marines, 1st Mar. Div.—Seeking anyone who remembers Lance Cpl. William J. Hontz and can supply information on the spraying of Agent Orange in Vietnam (May, 1967-June, 1968)—Mrs. Roslyn Hontz, 37 Armour Ct., Allentown PA 18103.

34th Inf. Rgt., 8th Inf. Div. (May, 1941)—Seeking anyone having knowledge of my hospitalization at Ft.

SEEKING

The Seeking column is published on a first-come first-served basis. Submission forms are available from VFW Magazine, Seeking, 406 W. 34 St., Kansas City MO 64111.

USMC Pilots (WWII)—Seeking Hardy Wilcoxon & Donald Wilde—Henry Sakuda, 9655 La Rosa Dr., Temple City CA 91780.

USS Clark (DD-361)—Seeking former crew members—Lindel Smithpeters, 1849 N. Maston, Porterville CA 93257.

950th, 104th & 108th Chem. Processing Cos., (Comp Cresswell)—Seeking former members—Barry Phillips, 26 Rookery Crescent, Cresswell Stoke-on-Trent, ST11 9RA, England.

16th Cavalry, Co. E, Trp. F., (WWII)—Thor Carlson, 134 89th Ave., Treasure Island FL 33706.

Sqd. VC-20, (WWII)—P.I. Ritz, 220 Aspen Ln., Lititz PA 17543.

11th AF, (WWII)—Reunion?—John Tyler, 225 Rowe Ave., Greencastle PA 17225.

854th Engr. Topo. Bn.—1988?—Joseph Bonadies, 74 Charles River St., Needham MA 02192.

USS PC-551—Seeking former crew members—James Van Norden, Box 102, Arnegard ND 58835.

USS LST-807, (April, 1944)—Seeking any survivors of sinking—Eugene Eckstam, 2118 20th Ave., Monroe WI 53566.

USS LST-831, (April, 1944)—Seeking any survivors of sinking—Douglas Harlander, Box 307, Frederic WI 54837.

USS Smartt (DE-257)—Seeking all former crew members—Henry Siedlecki, 86 Pearsall Pl., Deer Park NY 11729.

329th Svc. Bn. Sig. Co., ETO & CBI—Reunion?—Bill Hudock, PO Box 332, 3rd St., Rd. 2, Grindstone PA 15442.

101st AB, 320th Artillery Air Mobil. Btry. C.—Seeking Douglas Hansen—Michael Rudy, Box 165, New Derry PA 15871.

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- V95 ROAD TO ROME - THUNDERBOLT
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- V28 AMERICA IN SPACE:
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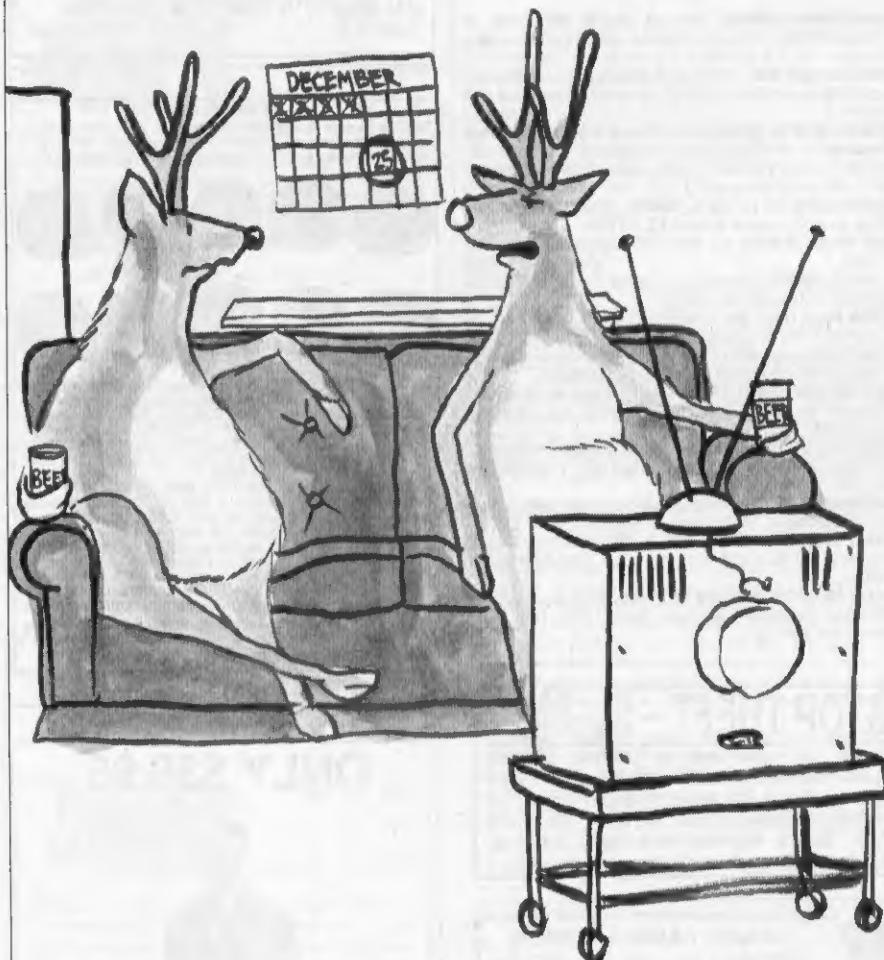
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All 'Gall' Is Divided

A man called a dozen of his creditors to tell them he was about to go into bankruptcy.

"I owe you over \$100,000," he said, "and my assets aren't enough to pay you five cents on the dollar. So I guess it will be impossible for you to get anything, unless you want to cut me up and divide me among you."

"Say, Mr. Chairman," spoke up one creditor. "I move we do it. I'd like to have his gall."

Outcome

I must admit that my husband is one of those men who tosses his socks into the laundry all scrunched up and turned inside out, but he claims there is no psychological reason for this. He says, "That's just

the way they come off my feet."

Nor am I making a statement when, after dutifully washing his socks, I return them to his bureau, fresh and clean, but in the same shape he gave them to me: all scrunched up and turned inside out.

That's just the way they came out of the laundry.

The World of Business

Wife, waking sleeping mate: "If it's of any interest, the other rats are down at the starting gate."

The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat.

Bumper sticker announcement: "The race is over! The rats won."

Nude

A woman asked an artist to paint her nude.

"No," the artist said, "I don't do that sort of thing."

The woman offered to double his usual fee, but he still refused. She then offered five times as much as the normal fee.

"Okay," said the artist, "but I'll have to wear my socks, I must have somewhere to put my brushes."

About time!

So these parents are worried sick about their little boy — eight years old and he hasn't spoken a word. One day he looks up at breakfast and says, "Could I have a little more sugar on my oatmeal?"

The parents are dumbfounded. Hysterically they cry: "You spoke! You said something! Tell us, why have you waited all these years?"

The little kid shrugs his shoulders, "Up till this, everything's been okay."

The cautious life . . .

A friend of mine in a retirement home is of the opinion that he's on borrowed time. Hence he has a habit of remarking, "If the Lord spares me," whenever he undertakes any objective in the future tense.

After church on a recent Sunday, a lady offering religious magazines on the sidewalk had no trouble selling him one. He skimmed it through on the spot, and she ventured, "If you subscribe for three years, you'll save a lot of money."

"Lady," he sighed gloomily, "I don't even buy three bananas at the supermarket anymore."

Short fall

The seductively dressed young blond had narrowly escaped death in a hotel fire. A newspaper reporter was interviewing her.

"When the elevator cable snapped and started to fall, I guess all the sins of your past flashed before you?"

"Not really," she answered. "We only fell eight stories."

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